

man exercise. Developing our human capabilities is our ultimate goal. Harnessing those capabilities through science, technology and managerial infrastructure will become increasingly important. Without these ingredients, progress will become substituted for imbalance, backwardness and economic retrogression.

Many parents have deliberately placed themselves under very severe hardship and strenuous obligation so that their sons and daughters may acquire an education. The need for educational facilities also creates hardships and sacrifice for the average taxpayer. Today a vast number of these young people are unable to secure employment of any kind. I remind Your Honour that, as in many areas, the government had ample warning and an abundance of time to react to the current situation. It has again shown its arrogance and contempt for people and has elected to deliberately perpetuate the crises. When the government finally gets around to dealing with this acute situation, a fractional improvement in the rate of employment will be heralded as a great achievement.

The government is now engaged in retraining programs which are supposed to be a cure-all, but it is overlooking one very fundamental aspect, job availability. Why are jobs not available? I suggest there are many reasons. The primary reason is the monetary and fiscal policies upon which the government has embarked. Second, I believe that the uncertainty created by the white paper proposals on tax reform has affected industries, primary industries as well as resource industries. I had the privilege of serving on the committee which studied the proposals. In almost every instance, the implications of the white paper had a detrimental effect on the development in fundamental sectors of our industrial community, particularly the mining industry.

Another factor is the detrimental effect of the unpegging of the Canadian dollar. This has affected the competitiveness of Canadian industry on international markets, particularly the primary industries, all of which has aroused an industrial slowdown and has further aggravated the unemployment situation.

The retraining programs which I mentioned are naturally welcome. However, they will not solve the problem of job acquisition at a time when jobs are not available. If a student cannot return to the classroom, he will be forced into idleness, eventually becoming a burden to the nation, surviving only on the sustenance of the welfare dole. Similarly, increases in unemployment benefits will be of little value because the majority of those with whom we are concerned are job seeking for the first time and hence will be unable to qualify.

The people of this nation with whom we are dealing are not self-styled radicals, revolutionaries or computer smashers. They are average red-blooded Canadian citizens who wish to fend for themselves, their families and communities and to hopefully take their rightful place in society. They do not want anything more than the opportunity of being steadily employed, with the prospect of advancement, promotion and improved rewards commensurate with their abilities and initiative.

Employment of Graduate Students

Our youth engaged diligently in studies and training because they were assured of growing opportunities and the ultimate achievement of their rightful share of Canadian benevolence. However, these opportunities do not exist today. They are today nothing but a distant ideal. Senator Fulbright said:

One of life's injustices is that young men must fight the wars that older men begin. To a great extent, the lives and hopes of the present student generation turn on the wisdom and judgment of the men of an older generation to whom the people have entrusted political power.

I am sure many young people today will analyse this statement with a great degree of thoroughness. In particular, they will question the wisdom of entrusting their future to a government headed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) whom they accepted as one who would be responsible for the future of their precious ideals.

We hear from many quarters that young people are simply lazy and do not care to acquire gainful employment. A survey was conducted by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union recently in Saskatoon. The minister is present, and I am sure he would be interested in the results of that survey. The results showed that 84 per cent of all students were actively looking for work last Summer. Only 39.2 per cent of them found jobs. The largest number of these, 31.3 per cent, found work as labourers; 20.5 per cent claimed they found jobs in technical areas, and 12.2 per cent of those who found employment listed their employment as being in a service area.

• (3:50 p.m.)

It appears that "who you know" is still important when it comes to finding a job, since 48.7 per cent of the students who found employment did so through personal contacts. A further 32.5 per cent found jobs as a result of direct application, while only a meagre, and I repeat meagre, 8.1 per cent were placed through Canada Manpower centres.

One of the most appalling statistics uncovered by the survey was that 81.5 per cent of all students who failed to get jobs indicated that they needed jobs to finance their next year at university. If even a fraction of this group, it was said, could not return to university in the fall because of financial reasons, the university would face an enrolment crisis.

Lack of student employment opportunities gives rise to a number of other serious difficulties. Last week the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) questioned the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) on the subject of student loan repayment. The Minister of Finance gave a frivolous answer, suggesting that special concessions could be made in cases where the hon. member would furnish details; he would be pleased to take up the matter with the banks, he added. No mention was made of who was to bear the cost of additional interest. The minister suggested the period of repayment could be extended up to ten years if a special application were made. This is all well and good. But