

referring to university students entering the labour market. This subject was dealt with by my colleague this afternoon and should definitely have been dealt with by the government.

Another matter that I understand is close to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development and which certainly involves areas of the country such as the Atlantic provinces and the west coast is shipbuilding and unemployment in our shipyards today. I believe that today a cabinet committee, composed of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), and I think the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Jamieson), is meeting the Canadian Shipbuilding Association, and I hope that as a result some policies will be brought forward to arrest the very heavy unemployment existing at present in our shipyards.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has suggested from time to time that our shipyards should be rationalized. I think they have been to as great an extent as possible. I recall that in previous debates in the house I put forward suggestions to assist in formulating a policy to create employment in our shipyards. For example, I suggested that the subsidy on steel trawlers, which has been cut back from 50 to 35 per cent, should be reinstated in the case of fishing companies that are attempting to replace obsolete equipment. Another suggestion concerned something that is done in other countries by way of long term financing and depreciation allowances, and also investment allowances which I believe are made in the United Kingdom. I think the minister might have dealt with these questions, but nevertheless I hope that some policy will be forthcoming at an early date in connection with our shipyards and also the establishment of a merchant marine in this country.

Before I deal with other points, one other matter that was dealt with by my colleague, the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), was the submission put forward by the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. I will not go into this question fully in view of the short time I have, but I think the submissions they made, as outlined in their release of December, 1968, bear repetition.

The federation pointed out that the winter works program was discontinued without prior notice to the municipalities. As the brief

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states, the cancellation was announced without warning 60 days before the commencement of the expected 1968-69 program. The federation points out that it believes a replacement program should be brought forward by the government to deal with, for example, the installation of water mains and other major waterworks projects, the installation of trunk sewers and other sewage collection projects and, third, storm sewer installations. In their brief they suggest that these projects could be implemented by amending the National Housing Act. They further point out that these projects will provide winter employment and that these services are essential in housing construction.

The figures for unemployment in Canada have been related by a number of speakers in this debate. I listened to the speech of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) who put a lot of statistics on the record. I do not intend to duplicate them, but I do think he should have dealt with certain matters and certainly have admitted that there is a serious unemployment problem. I think that the minister of rural development was quite fair in his remarks in this regard.

The minister of rural development should also have seized upon the opportunity today to give the house and especially people in the Atlantic area some idea when his new department will be set up. I know this is subject to the business before the house, but I hope it will be soon because there is a lot of uneasiness in the Atlantic provinces, especially in regard to the Atlantic Development Board. Although we hear stories and rumours about it, I hope that the board will remain a separate entity, that it will continue to do necessary work in our area and not become a sort of advisory board to the minister. What I am afraid of is that the board, which was set up by the previous Conservative government and carried on by the succeeding Liberal government and until this date by the present government, will be lumped together with other boards or with some other branch of the ministry of rural development and in some way become lost. I hope this will not be the case.

The Minister of Labour pointed out that the government, through the offices of the Department of Manpower and Immigration, is going to introduce vocational training for Canadians. I believe in this in the long run, but I think that the remedies that have been proposed should have included assistance for