

Employment Programs

a single person and \$4,000 for a married couple. We should pump money into the economy by increasing old age pensions. The 42 cents-a-month boys opposite are worse than the six bucks Liberals of 1957—and we all know what happened to them. The government should accelerate the programs of public housing and aid municipalities to carry out long overdue projects such as putting sewage disposal plants into proper order; it should aid the provinces to fight pollution.

I wish to close by suggesting what the government should do to help graduates from universities and community colleges who are unable to find the employment for which they have been trained. At the present time we are leaving this problem almost entirely to private enterprise and it may be two or three years before some of these highly qualified graduates are able to find work.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand that the hon. member's time has expired.

Mr. Orlikow: May I have one more moment, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is seeking leave to continue for one more moment.

Mr. Orlikow: I believe the government should consider taking steps to subsidize the employment of university graduates until they can be absorbed into the economic life of Canada in the regular way. In other words, the government might pay a subsidy to private companies which could not see their way clear to hire the graduates who are now ready. The other suggestion is that the government give consideration to extending tax concessions, not to enable companies to acquire more equipment, as we are now doing, but to take on students for a transitional period, probably a year or two, until they can find the work for which they have been trained at great expense to the people of Canada.

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): In speaking on this motion, Mr. Speaker, criticizing the government for allowing the unemployment of our youth to reach such high proportions, I want to put special emphasis on the situation which exists in the Prairie provinces. Although the problem of the unemployment of our youth is nationwide, it has some peculiarities pertaining to the Prairie provinces which I think deserve mention. The situation in the prairie provinces in this connection can only be described as very serious. This summer, the unemployment of students only complicates the difficulties which students from western Canada have been facing for the last five years.

The prairie region is in a state of transition. The poor economic situation has not only been disastrous for the farmer but also for farm-related industries. The effect of this drastic loss of prairie farm income has multiplied, leaving the whole western economy in a state of depression. The demoralizing effect of this situation on the youth of western Canada is obvious. Permanent jobs are hard enough to find, but the opportunity to obtain summer employment, which is vital to so many students

[Mr. Orlikow.]

if they are to continue their education, is for many non-existent.

Graduates from our universities are unable to find work locally so they must seek it elsewhere. The brain drain which results from this lack of opportunity will seriously hinder the development of the west and of the north. Our highly trained technicians and engineers, our doctors and lawyers, our agricultural and mining experts are forced to leave. The people who are so necessary to the development of the west must have some inducement if they are to remain.

Students wishing to attend universities from the rural parts of the western provinces are faced with very serious problems. All institutions of higher learning are situated in the cities. When a rural student commences university training he is faced with the higher costs of city living. This puts him at a disadvantage compared with the city student who is able to live relatively cheaply with his parents. On-campus living accommodation is usually very limited and for the student who cannot afford to meet such costs there are very few alternatives. Invariably, accommodation which is within reasonable reach of the university is at a premium. Rents are high and there is often a certain amount of unfair discrimination practised by landlords against students. Because of the large numbers of students needing places to live near the university, there is an extreme shortage of suitable accommodation. Students who do not have sufficient financial resources are forced to find accommodation a long way from the campus.

In addition to the practical difficulties facing students there is the problem of adjustment. For the young person who has never experienced city life, to be thrust into an urban environment with no transitional period often leads to disaster. This factor alone accounts for the higher percentage rate of failures among first-year rural students in universities when compared with those from the cities.

The rural student has always been at a disadvantage, but the disadvantages are even greater in a year when their fathers who are farmers can ill-afford to help finance their education. The annual cost for a rural student attending university is at least \$2,500. Even with full government bursaries and student loans it is very difficult for the rural student to obtain this sum. Government-founded and financed universities are supposed to be universally accessible in this country. This may be true in theory, Mr. Speaker, but it is certainly not true in fact. Money is the determining factor and, as is usually the case, the student is at a disadvantage. Because of this disadvantage the rural student must earn and save more money than the city student.

• (8:40 p.m.)

In this respect the rural student is also at a disadvantage. Summer jobs for students in the rural parts of the Prairies are simply non-existent. The rural student must seek his summer job in the city or in the northern mining communities. Once again he loses the advantage of living at home. If a student has a four-month summer job he will spend \$500 or more of his earnings for board and