

to the treadmill until they are tired and beaten at 65. I think we need to re-examine this type of social order.

Mr. Greene: Now, the hon. member is talking about tired old men.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Mr. Rose: We are driving families apart because the kids are left idle while often both parents are slaving for bread. Second, we are driving our communities apart because the working poor are becoming increasingly hostile to having their tax burdens increased to support welfare rolls that have tripled over the past three years, certainly in my constituency. We are driving our country apart because of the increasing regional and racial disparity that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has failed to solve.

This is not a new trick. It is an old Liberal trick of playing off the angers and fears of one group in our society against another. It is the divide and conquer strategy. I must admit that it has worked extremely well for half a century.

Mr. Boulanger: That is the socialist way of life.

Mr. Rose: If the hon. member would like to ask a question, I would be quite willing to answer it. If the hon. member for Mercier (Mr. Boulanger) wishes to ask a question, I invite him to take the floor. If not, may I tell him that the next time I am looking for a boy soprano for my choir, I will call on him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Rose: Let us get down to a few specifics. In the work force age group from 14 to 24, on May 15 there were 281,000 unemployed young people out of a total of 2,068,000, a ratio of 13.6 per cent, over double that of adults. There are no later figures available, but the new figures will be out tomorrow. Many of these kids have been unable to find jobs and will not find jobs this summer. They are strung out along the highways. I drove from Ottawa to the west coast last week and I saw hundreds of them. If young adults stay at home, they are a drag on their parents. Often the parents cannot afford to keep them. If they leave home, most will need some kind of social assistance.

There is another large group of people who have never registered for work and therefore do not appear in most unemployment statistics. These are the ones in schools. The community response to education is becoming increasingly resentful. People who cannot afford to keep their own bodies and souls together are looking very critically at increased educational costs. These are the kinds of attitudes building up as a result of our unemployment. It will take years for these resentments and hostilities to disappear. The government will undoubtedly counter that the \$68 million package under Opportunities for Youth is a good thing and, therefore, they should be congratulated.

There are 1.8 million students available for work this summer. If you divide the \$68 million youth package at a

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\$1,000 per student we find that only 68,000 jobs can be provided, or 4 per cent of the student demand. This \$68 million will look after approximately 4 per cent of the total student demand. Surely, the government which created the job scarcity in the first place should not expect too much in the way of congratulations for this. It is somewhat like congratulating a careless motorist for offering you a bandaid after he has run you down with his car and broken your leg.

The Opportunities for Youth Program or, as it is called by some people, hush money for kids, has received a great deal of publicity and fanfare. But I wonder how much new money there really is in the package. I raised this question because I am concerned that there may not be a substantial amount of new money in the particular package or, if there is, whether it has come from slashing some existing youth programs. In short, is it the updated version of the old shell game? I wish to quote from a March 15 press release of the Minister of National Defence:

Between 6,000 and 8,000 young people will be accepted for special militia training and another 3,000 to 4,000 will be hired for a range of civilian employment.

When I checked with the Department of National Defence the other day about a particular problem, I found out that this is not the case at all. The total number of cadets or young people who served last summer was 8,000. Of those, 2,000 have this year been subtracted, not added, for leadership training. Additionally, 1,000 have been subtracted from this program because of a new program involving sea cadets. Instead of 8,000 plus 4,000 we have 8,000 minus 3,000. The result has been disappointment for a lot of New Westminster regional cadets who planned to spend their summer at Wainwright. Instead of seven weeks, as had been anticipated and for which they planned all winter, they are bitterly disappointed to find that they will now be going for one week only on a revolving basis. In order to go, they worked diligently to improve their qualifications and training levels.

Another case makes me wonder how much new money is actually to be spent on this Opportunities for Youth Program. A couple of weeks ago, I received a letter from the University of British Columbia. It concerns a UBC student who worked last year with customs and excise and was promised her job back again this summer. This letter was written on her behalf and I quote from it:

The interesting thing about this case is that when she called up the government offices to find out what had gone wrong she was told by a friend there that their (customs and excise) normal summer money for hiring students had been cut this year and transferred to the Opportunities for Youth Program.

I do not know whether the allegation is true, but this is representative of the kind of public relations developing. It is taking money from one pocket and putting it into another. It would therefore be nice to have some answers to some of these questions which are causing concern. I hope the representative of the minister will provide us with some answers.