

technological age. Their mistakes can perhaps, to some degree, be forgiven. But can ours? Because surely we are following them down the same path to urban blight with all its attendant social and economic problems. Good housing at prices people can afford, particularly those just starting a family, is the very cornerstone of a healthy urban environment. So, let us rid ourselves of the land speculators and high interest rates and the endless red tape between governments and get on with the job.

Another major problem very evident in today's society, and one which is causing a rather widespread social malaise among the young, is the type of education most schools are providing. We see before us education systems which are not only out of touch with the real challenges of the present and future, but which have placed their emphasis on brick and mortar in the past ten years. This has created a generation of ill-equipped and, to an appreciable degree, over-educated unemployables. The cost of this failure has been astronomical.

One of the reasons our students today are over-educated is that we have trained them for professional jobs that our economic policies have exported to foreign countries, notably to the United States. In the vast field of what might be termed creative technology, the field of the inventor, the architect, the designer, the quality control analyst, and so on, most of the work is being done by the parent firm outside Canada. What our workers do, by and large, is assemble, package, label and ship. This is one major reason so many of our graduates find it difficult or, at times, impossible to find meaningful employment for which they have been trained at great cost. Let us not forget that the largest share of the cost of education, at all levels, is borne by the low and middle income earner.

It is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that technical and commercial students should, after nine years of schooling, be released from our institutions to gain on-the-job training in industry and in commerce where they would receive the remainder of their education, not at the taxpayers' expense but at the company's expense. This, I suggest, would have a multiple effect: not only would it lower school taxes, it would relieve congestion in our schools and would provide more practical training where the action is—in the factory and in the marketplace. Students would also mature faster and be better prepared to face the challenges of a real life situation. They would have five or six years behind them before marrying and starting a family, and hopefully would be in better financial shape. The same would hold true for rural youngsters who wish to pursue a career in agriculture.

• (1630)

As a former teacher, I saw so much of the time of many students wasted because they were being forced to stay at school to prepare for jobs that to a great degree will soon be obsolete. This situation holds true for many academic students as well. It is indeed a sad commentary on our society today to see university graduates employed as check-out girls in food stores and trained teachers driving taxis. Bitterness is growing among this young group in Canada. In talking with university students I find that many are not even planning beyond graduation day. School has become a sort of asylum for them. They feel secure in the classroom but dread the thought of job

hunting. Is it any wonder that many become part of the drug subculture, or simply want to wander?

Opportunities for Youth Programs and Local Initiative Programs are not going to solve this problem. Not only are they extremely costly to the taxpayers, but they hardly make a dent in the unemployment figures relating to the young. This summer, for example, only 30,000 young people, mainly from our schools, will participate in the OFY, while approximately 210,000 young people will be left out. If we have an Opportunities for Youth program for students, why cannot we have the same kind of program for the thousands of youths who cannot find work in our factories?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to devote the remainder of my time to yet a third major cause of social malaise among our younger people. I am referring to the absolute boredom that comes from the menial, mind-numbing jobs to which so many of our younger workers—be they blue or white collar—are subjected in our factories and offices across the country. In a recent article in the *Toronto Star*, Sydney Katz reports that "of the thousands of men who work on the auto-assembly lines in Oshawa, 56 per cent are taking tranquilizers or some other kind of drug, many to help them cope with their mind-numbing jobs". Further, "we are notorious for the extent of our drug use", said Albert Taylor, president of local 222 of the United Automobile Workers Union. "The men move zombie-like performing the same mindless, minor operations, over and over again, their senses befogged and distorted by their robot-like movements and the hellish howls and shrieks of the machines."

To me this reads like an industrial history of Great Britain in the 19th century. Industrial development has not really improved working conditions at all. In fact, emotionally and psychologically, workers are worse off today. When one considers that the majority of these workers are in their twenties and thirties, it is not difficult to understand a host of social and financial problems emanating from this boredom and entering the homes and families of these workers. This boredom is also prevalent in office work as well where pool typists, copying machine operators, keypunch operators and filing clerks never see the beginning or the end of their jobs.

So, Mr. Speaker, all in all we seem to be nurturing a generation of young people who are suspicious of traditional professions because of lack of opportunity in many of those professions, bored and numbed by jobs that require no creative or challenging skills, disillusioned about traditional work patterns, disinterested in learning because of antiquated educational systems, and lacking proper and decent living conditions in ever-growing congested cities. This is a pretty bleak picture, and a pretty sobering one.

**Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, the points put forward this afternoon both by the mover of the motion, the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom), and by the speaker who has just preceded me cover a wide range. If I remember correctly, the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, in attempting to put forward some alternative ideas, said he approved of the on-the-job training programs of the government and that he would want to see these programs extended with the