

15 to 19, 20 to 24, and 25 to 29. Indeed, those in the 15 to 19 bracket who in 1986 will be 25 to 29 years of age, number over 2,300,000. Those who are 10 to 14 years of age, who will be 20 to 24 years of age in 1986, number 2,276,000 of them. And of the ones who are 5 to 9 and who will be 15 to 19 years of age in 1986, there will be almost two million. In rounded figures, we have almost six million people who, in eight years from now, in the middle 1980s, when we are told by the government we are going to have a shortage of people to do work, will be eligible for work. There will be six million young Canadians who will be able to work, between the ages of 15 and 30 years of age.

I am not suggesting that they are all going to work, but if there is a participation rate of anything approaching what we have today when it is becoming the trend for two members in the family to work we can expect at least 60 per cent of them to be looking for jobs. This will amount to something in the neighbourhood of 3,500,000 new jobs that we will have to find for these people, and I am not talking about the people unemployed today who are over 24 years of age and number approximately 500,000. So we have almost four million jobs that we have to find in this country in the next ten years if we want to get down to full employment. The government should bear that in mind.

The government has spent a lot of money on short-term job measures, and I have gone through them in detail. Some of them are modestly effective and some of them are completely ineffective, but the problem is they are all short-term jobs. For example, Canada Works is going to spend \$48 million on Young Canada Works this summer for a maximum hopeful employment of 30,000 young Canadians under 25 years of age. They are not going to have any skills after working 18 weeks. They will have cleared a plot of land in some municipality for a park, made a boat ramp, raked brush at the side of a road, taken over a day care centre, or tried to run a summer camp, but they are not going to have life skills which they could use in other jobs in the future.

There is the same problem with Canada Works where you can work up to 52 weeks. There are a number of people in those jobs, but they are not ongoing jobs. They are merely band-aids. The problem is that at the end of the 18 weeks for Young Canada Works, or 52 weeks for Canada Works, these people will be dumped back into the unemployment force again, and they will not have learned a skill or trade.

Another problem I would like to point out, although I know I will not be able to expand on it today, is that the federal government has been very lax in dealing with teaching skills, and teaching skills through apprenticeship programs. I realize that this would have to be done in co-operation with the provinces. It would be much more beneficial if the government were to take a long-term view of what it is teaching the young people in order to give them skills which will last them throughout their lives.

I would like to summarize a few things before sitting down. Youth unemployment has been a problem in Canada for several years. The long-term dangers to Canada's newest

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entrants into the labour force—still forming their initial attitude to work, being frustrated and turned off by bleak employment prospects—are obvious, but the young unemployment crisis in this country has been all but ignored by the present Liberal government.

When the present government has referred to youth unemployment its ministers have characterized it as “unusually high”, or “temporary”. The government's own statistics prove that the unemployment rate has risen consistently and predictably. When the present government says that these rates are temporary or recent, it is misleading the Canadian people.

If we look at Statistics Canada we find that in December, 1973, the unemployment rate among the 14 to 24 age group was 9.7 per cent. By December, 1974—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. He may proceed if there is unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to wrap up as quickly as possible. In December, 1974, the figure had risen to 10.6 per cent, and continued to rise to 12.5 per cent in December, 1975. It went to 13.4 per cent in December, 1976, and hit 15.2 per cent in December, 1977. As of March, 1978, the adjusted unemployment figure for this age group was 15.1 per cent, but the actual figures indicate over 16 per cent.

If the government would only read its own figures it would realize that the problem has been steadily growing over the past five years. The present situation was predictable, yet the government has ignored this and tried to pretend that the problem will solve itself in the very near future.

Also, according to Statistics Canada, the government's own direct youth job creation response, including summer student employment, has been going down over the years. In 1973 the government spent \$85.4 million to create 67,000 jobs for young Canadians. In 1974 the federal government spent \$85.4 million to create 67,000 jobs. In 1975 the federal government spent \$67 million to create only 37,000 jobs for young Canadians. In 1976 the federal government spent \$24 million to create 12,000 summer jobs. In 1977 the federal government spent \$106.2 million to create 81,400 jobs. In 1978 it reduced the amount to \$96.2 million to create some 60,000 jobs. I point out that is 60,000 summer jobs, which is 3,000 more than was in its comparable figures for last year. I think it is inconsistent with trying to upgrade the youth employment problem.

● (1422)

I should point out that even the minister has indicated that the statistics they have often quoted in reference to how many jobs they create in the summertime are deceptive. Just the other day I asked a question about this in the House and the minister said that they did not like to play with figures, that they are more interested in jobs. Yet as he goes around the country he says that last summer Canada Manpower found