

• (1700)

Let us not be deceived, Sir, into thinking that these symptoms are restricted solely to those who go straight from high school into the labour force. Although statistics show that young people who receive no post-secondary education are less likely to find a job, schooling itself is no longer a guarantee of entry in the labour force. When I was looking at these statistics, Sir, one thing came very clearly to mind. They showed that 73 per cent of those young people who were unemployed have only a high school education or less. That points out the need for a clear remedial and fundamental skill development training. That is what is really needed by these young people. Not just for education's sake, but to give them the skills to enrol in training. Give them the fundamental education so that they can get enrolled in training programs. But what did the Government do two years ago? It cut off funding for literacy and basic training programs.

However, that is for the young people who have a high school education or less. Look at the others who have gone on and put in years of study and preparation, young people who are graduating from university and community colleges and can find no work to go to. No wonder they begin to ask themselves why they bothered to do it in the first place. Why did they bother juggling part-time jobs during the school year and search for and work hard at summer jobs so that they could get enough money to pay for their education? Why did they bother to go so heavily into debt to graduate and then find that they have no means of paying back those loans? That is what the young people of today are asking; to do all that and then find there are no jobs. No wonder they are disillusioned, no wonder they are giving up on the system.

This leads us to other problems and social burdens that unemployment brings about. Just recently there was a study done which shows the linkage between youth unemployment and crime. This comes to light in a book entitled *Economic Opportunity and Crime*. It says that in the case of crimes of violence we can demonstrate a fairly strong relationship between these offences and deteriorating economic conditions mainly reflected by unemployment. We have hypothesized that assaults will increase as a result of frustration of unemployment. I do not need to turn to economic or academic studies to bear this out, Mr. Speaker. I just want to read from a letter written by a widow who is in dire financial straits. She said that her son left home. He was away only one month. He tried hard, he could not find a job and welfare would not help him, so he stole food just so he could live. As a result the boy was put in a correctional centre for what he did, and he was not the only young boy who was there because of that.

Earlier this week in the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs I asked whether or not we were undertaking in depth studies in Canada to show the correlation between unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, and the social costs that will be with us long after new jobs are created. As yet there has been almost nothing done in this field in Canada, but we need those studies in the same way that we need this Government and this Parliament to address the

### Supply

problem. Not from the point of view, Mr. Speaker, of trying to patch up the problems, not to look for band-aid solutions, but to begin a different kind of approach, one that will see us investing in human resources in the way we have invested in natural resources in the past.

We have not had in this country a commitment by the Liberal Government that the development of the human potential in this country is as important and as critical as is the development of equipment or plant or natural resources. That attitude has to be turned around, Sir. Our greatest resource in this country is our people. We have to give the same kind of capital investment to the development of our people as has been done with the other sectors of our economy in the past. That, Sir, is what this Party is committed to. The studies we have done have shown that this is the only way to turn around this situation of youth employment.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member. At the beginning of her remarks she was very unkind to the Liberal Government. She also mentioned the number of young people who will be seeking employment this summer so that they can return to university and trade schools and so on. I would like to know if, in areas of high unemployment and where there is practically no industry, she supports the Government's summer student employment programs and, generally speaking, whether she supports direct government job creation in those areas I mentioned?

**Miss MacDonald:** The Hon. Member comes from Newfoundland. He certainly should know something about high unemployment in this country and the tragedy that this Government has not even recognized the problems of Newfoundland in any way, shape or form. He should be up there demanding that the Cabinet Ministers in his Government do something about turning around their attitude toward Newfoundland. It has been a disgrace and he should know it. I want to tell him that for a long time the intensive development of long-term jobs will be most critical. Certainly the summer programs have been supported, but what do they do for the 500,000 young people who will not have access to them? There are many in his riding of Gander-Twillingate who will not be beneficiaries of that program. What, may I ask, is he prepared to say on their behalf, because the Government is saying nothing for them.

• (1710)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** Before giving the Hon. Member the floor, I should comment that questions are directed to the person who has made a speech. The person who has made a speech should not be directing comments or questions to the questioner. The Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker).

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, of course there was a reason I asked the question. The Hon. Member who just spoke was part of the Government in 1979 and the first part of 1980. One of the most disgusting things that the Government did at that time, in which the Hon. Member was a key player, was to lay