

# AND ALL HELL WILL

An unfortunate side effect of Canada's recent economic recession is beginning to show as university enrolment figures and youth unemployment figures are being tabulated this fall -- Canadian youth from the ages of 15 to 25 have no place to go.

The labour force, in these times of high unemployment and the new rash of layoffs (due to President Nixon's import surcharge), cannot accommodate more than 50 percent of the young workers in the job market.

And university enrolment is down all across the country due to the fact that the economic squeeze has caused a severe shortage in summer jobs for students, tighter money in many families of students, and higher university admission standards caused by provincial governments who cannot afford to subsidize universities to the degree that these institutions have become accustomed.

Furthermore, university students are beginning to realize that college degree is no longer a meal-ticket to a cushy job: as the number of college graduates rises, so rises the rate of unemployment among people younger than 25 years of age. And fewer and fewer grads are getting work in their specific field of qualification.

It is also becoming increasingly clear, in the midst of this economic turmoil, that the proliferation of government task forces, economic reports, and brainstorm youth employment schemes, are really an attack on the symptoms of youth unemployment. The disease - a capital-intensive industrial society that is restricted by American control of most Canadian industries -- continues its cancerous course unchecked.

Now, after four frustrating years of inflation followed by massive unemployment, the government has set up an interdepartmental study group (the term 'task force' has become passe because of its embarrassing connotations) to form a "brains trust" to study the economy. They will concentrate on high unemployment among youth, and the relationship of this to underenrolment in post-secondary educational institutes.

Projected enrolment for post-secondary institutes this year, you see, was 594,000 students. In reality, the figure is only 519,000. Projected enrolment for universities (excluding the Quebec CEGEP's) was 341,000. But the true figure is less than 300,000.

Where are the missing students? One thing is certain: they aren't in the labour force. Over half of the 455,000 unemployed persons in Canada today are under 25. This situation has been getting worse for the past ten years: now it is reaching crisis proportions.

In view of this, the Trudeau government has set up its "interdepartmental study group"; but, you may ask, to do what? Yes, it's the same old story: to discover new legislative tricks to cover the problem, and arrive at short term solutions that mend the social fabric briefly, but without ever asking the basic question - why the problem occurred and keeps on recurring.

## NATIONAL ECONOMY NOT ALL RIGHT

This year the symptoms of high youth unemployment and low university enrolment are going to be hard to erase. A quick look at the following selected items from last month's daily newspapers quickly dispels the myth that all is right with the national economy:

\*Underenrolment at the University of Calgary forced the Board of Governor's there to implement an immediate budget freeze on the hiring of both academic and support staff. The university, with enrolment almost 2,000 below their projection of 10,600, has committed itself to expenditures which could exceed their known resources.

\*The unemployment rate for people under 25, despite the federal government's Opportunities for Youth Program and the promised economic upswing, was higher in July (10.8 percent) and August (9.1 percent) this year than a year ago.

\*University of Alberta had 1,200 less students than the expected 19,000, and have been subsidized by the provincial government so that they will lose no more than \$500,000 this year.

\*The Kingston city council asked the Ontario government to tighten up its welfare legislation when the councillors discovered that 100 of the 301 single men drawing social assistance in that city were under 20 years of age.

\*Donald McDonald, president of the Canadian labour Congress, pointed out that the federal government's "Employee Support Bill" would not help stave unemployment caused by the U.S. import surcharge. The American government could counteract this immediately by implementing its "Countervailing Tariff Law" which prevents subsidized industries from undercutting American market prices. And, after all, the States control North American industries and markets, and they're trying to keep unemployment down in their country, too.

\*Laurentian University in Sudbury froze its budget for thirty days to study the implications of losing \$1,250,000 when only 2,100 students (100 less than last year) enrolled.

\*McMaster University at Waterloo and Carleton University at Ottawa are studying their budget trying to juggle their finances to keep the books balanced in the face of surprising underenrolment.

These items are an indicator for a widespread tendency among students -- they didn't leave the labour market this fall because they either could not afford to go to school fulltime or else they figured that a university education no longer held the certain potential of financial security.

But half of those students found that while they were still in the job market, they had little chance of breaking into the employed labor force. It's hard trying to sell your labor in a capitalist country in times of recession, and a hard economic lesson was learned by many as they waited in the unemployment office queues.

The summer months are traditionally those with the lowest rate of unemployment. Yet in July 514,000 Canadians (out of a total labor force of 9,068,000) were unemployed, for an unemployment rate of 5.7 percent. And in August, 445,000 (out of 8,972,000) were out of work (5.1 percent).

But the overall unemployment rate is artificial in relation to youth unemployment, which is much higher.

The unemployment rate among workers from 14 to 24 was 10.8 percent during July and 9.1 percent in August. Unemployment among persons over 25 was only 3.5 percent in July and 3.4 percent in August. So government economic policies, while helping older workers, have not created jobs for the young.

When these figures were released in September, Prime Minister Trudeau and Finance Minister Edgar Benson boasted that the government's fight against unemployment was working superbly for workers older than 25. Trudeau's only comment on youth unemployment was that the government did not know enough about youth and "their attitudes towards existing work ethics" to explain the problem.

A few days later the Prime Minister suggested that the problem "is with the teenage group which has entered the labor force" and who, according to him, were not going back to school at their normal rate.

But why are they not going back to school? It's a new phenomenon, Trudeau shrugs, as he sets up another study group to fathom the student mystique. Study groups and task forces put a convenient end to parliamentary dialogue since they provide the stock answer: "Well, it's being looked into."

## SERIOUS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

It is general knowledge that unemployment hits people in the lower-income bracket the hardest for a variety of reasons. They are unable to compete for many jobs because they lack the education of the other classes (now, there's a vicious circle that could use a task force). Thus, they are the most expendable and the least able to protect themselves.

But what few people realize is that unemployment is also a serious problem among those under 25. Even when the Canadian economy is going full-tilt at near-zero unemployment, the young are beset by consistently high unemployment. Youth unemployment, for the past twenty years, has been an average of 100 percent higher than the national average.

This discrepancy has been getting greater during the past decade as the ratio of youth unemployment to overall unemployment has risen slowly but steadily.

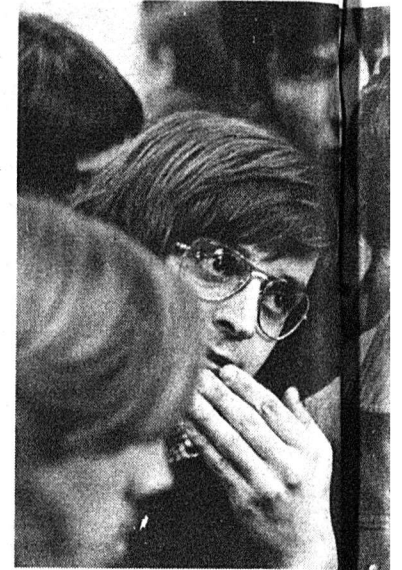
Couple this with the fact that overall unemployment has been getting worse and worse over the past decade (last year's national unemployment rate of 5.9 percent is the highest since 1962), and the problem facing today's youthful worker becomes clear.

A quick breakdown: unemployment among males from 14 to 19 last year was 15.0 percent, the highest since 1961; among males 20-24 it was 10.5 percent (the highest since 1961); among females 14-19 it was 11.4 percent (the highest ever); and among females 20-24 it was 5.1 percent (highest ever).

This year the figures to August are even higher, creating a bleak picture for those young people who hope to break into the job market for the first time this year.

But all these statistics are from Statistics Canada's conservative reports. There is also a large percentage of youths who constitute a hidden or disguised unemployment group.

When the Canadian economy is on a downswing (a situation that happens with frightening regularity) and there are fewer jobs, a significant number of young people, especially females,



"WHEN MIDDLE CLASS YOUTH CANNOT FIND WORK, ANELL

withdraw from active participation these people return to school, for most are classified by Statistics Canada as working now seeking work.

This factor raises the unemployment rate for its age group two or three full percentage points. In July, the unemployment rate for its age group listed at 17.5 percent. In August, it was 17.5 percent.

So, you might ask, if labor they go back to school in hard times, that option gets covered. In three sources of income, the economy is slow, government and dish out fewer riches to the young.

And universities, with small enrolment by raising admission fees so that students themselves are going on, of course, without a summer job and thus has no money.

## STUDENT "ME--W"

Universities base their enrolment figures and the statistics on the Eco Statistics Canada. Most universities their annual expenditures that fees per student and on overruns allotted to the university student.

More than one budgeted to actual enrolment figures and the universities had budgeted for. Association of Universities Coll their directors meeting in Sept Davidson Dunton, president of C and president of AUCC, men

cross-country enrolment significant estimations. "In western Canada as be above what it was last year, projected," he said.

The AUCC found from men only falling off in freshman year, but students were also dropping out of provinces in Canada where university projections were Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Had the AUCC correlated its lowering university enrolment (university really falling off; the ratio of the number of qualified post-secondary students found little to be surprised at.

A close inspection of the summer that summer job opportunities consistently since 1968. "The federal government, like the opportunity solution to this problem.

Every summer since the employed has decreased and the summer has seen an increase in the