

The Address—Mrs. MacInnis

of one type. This government, I believe, is committing an error if it believes that these are summer travellers, or that the majority of them are summer travellers, out to travel from hostel to hostel as young people do in Europe. The vast majority of these young people could not find work or an occupation no matter whether they are students or not. I am convinced that that is the case.

Why is it that the people of Vancouver are worried and upset? For one thing, they are worried and upset—this applies particularly to many people in my riding, to those in the eastern part of the city and in the central part as well—because they feel they are terribly overburdened with taxes and simply cannot face the idea of keeping these young people housed and looked after in ever increasing numbers, especially since only 11 per cent of them come from British Columbia. As I say, only 11 per cent of them come from British Columbia. These people are angry and upset. They feel it is unfair. I think it is unfair, too. I believe the federal government has a responsibility to help provide shelter and work, because we are dealing with Canadians from right across the country. The people of Vancouver are worried financially, and they are worried because they do not know what so many young people, penned-up in idleness and subject to the propaganda coming from a small number of them, will do in the line of riots, disorders and trouble in the city.

• (9:30 p.m.)

Frankly, I think the attitude of our mayor has been anything but responsible and helpful. From the beginning he has assiduously sought to avoid taking action. He has taken the attitude that these young people should be driven out of town. This attitude has been fomented carefully and insistently among the population of Vancouver. Then, to add insult to injury, when the young people were moved from the armoury out to Jericho, the mayor remarked conversationally to the media, "Well, I see the brothel is being moved to Jericho." This is not the kind of comment the first statesman of a city should make. I consider that the inflammatory talk, the explosive elements around Vancouver, taken with the fact that there has been no action of any kind, are dangerous in the extreme.

I know that shelter is being provided to a certain extent. The Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) told me after the House met that about half the young people were being accommodated, for the time being at least, by the federal government and that the other half were being looked after by private citizen groups. This may be all right as a temporary measure but it is not a long-range solution. The students who were going to open the university administrative buildings to these young people felt strongly, after investigation, that this was not the solution, and they rejected it. The YMCA and other organizations are trying to pinch-hit, together with some of the church groups, but this is not the solution and in my view it is a very shortsighted policy for the federal government to decide not to intervene at the present time.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

Then there is the challenge of finding socially useful work these young people can do. I know hon. gentlemen opposite are likely to say this is not a federal responsibility. I remember that at one time the federal government took the attitude that unemployment of any kind was not their responsibility and that it should be left strictly to the municipalities to deal with. This attitude had to be abandoned in the face of mass unemployment. Responsibility for providing work for these young people can no longer be evaded.

The taxpayers will not stand for these young people lying around in idleness without any chance to contribute productively to their own keep. In any case, this is bad from the standpoint of the young people themselves; it is demoralizing in the extreme to deny them the opportunity to do something useful to earn their daily bread. The government's summer program for youth provided an estimated 36,000 jobs of which about 10,000 were in the militia. If the federal government could provide 10,000 jobs in the militia, paying \$700 to each person who took part in that program for two months, I suggest it can find money to pay wages to young people for socially useful tasks now and in the springtime.

These are not just my views, Mr. Speaker. Speaking on September 23, Mr. Reuben Baetz of the Canadian Welfare Council stated that 665,000 Canadian students were looking for work this summer and few had found it. He predicted there would be 750,000 looking for work next year. A release from the Department of Manpower showed that 179,000 students were registered across Canada for employment at the peak of last summer. Sixty-eight per cent of them found jobs, 32 per cent were still seeking work, and of these 27 per cent were post-secondary students and 73 per cent were high school students. It is the high school students who have had to bear the brunt of the unemployment catastrophe.

I have talked with the manpower people in Vancouver about student placement and learned that by the end of August there had been 29,212 registrations in British Columbia and only 9,595 placements. The figures for greater Vancouver are 13,900 registrations and 2,023 placements. No record was kept of the duration of the employment provided or the conditions under which young students were required to work. In sum, I was told by the manpower officials that there are not enough jobs to go round and that only the most aggressive or persistent of the students can hope to get jobs in the circumstances.

I should like to suggest several steps which I believe Ottawa must take. First, the government must recognize that the employment of young people is a federal problem. They have to recognize British Columbia in general and Vancouver in particular as a disaster area as far as the provision of work for young people is concerned, and should be prepared to provide jobs and programs to deal with the situation. It is not a summer thing; it persists all the year round. Private enterprise can help. I have talked with the Chamber of Commerce people and I know they have helped. But Ottawa has to take the initiative and provide a comprehensive program. The Vancouver city