

Adjournment Debate

government policies affecting them more than anybody else.

There is also the rate of incarceration. The Human Rights Commissioner says, to our shame, that a native young person in this country has a better chance of ending up in jail than graduating with a university degree. In spite of that, we see a highly motivated contingent of young people coming out of our native communities across this country.

I was pleased to note the report of the National Aboriginal Youth Conference that was held last year here in Ottawa. There was a very strong vision of the future emerging from that. As I think about the young people who attended that conference, I am also reminded of the post-secondary education debates that we had on this Hill last spring. Indian young people from across this country rallied on this Hill and, in the strongest of terms, drew the attention of this House and Canadians generally to the fact that post-secondary education, gaining the tools to determine their own destiny and run their own institutions are what they see as the key and they are prepared to fight for that.

We as people involved in government have fallen far short of our part of the bargain. I do not think we have recognized, as the Indian communities have, the burgeoning labour force that is growing up in those communities. The birth rate is more than double that of society as a whole. The average age in native communities is 23 while the average age of the larger society is 32. Almost 50 per cent are under age 20.

As the member for Nunatsiq, who proposed this motion, said in his presentation, there will be 140,000 aboriginal young people coming into the labour market between 1987 and 1997, a period we are part way through. The consequences of that large a number of new entrants coming into the labour force is truly staggering.

• (1800)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 is deemed to have been moved.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, on November 22, 1989, I posed a question to the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to child care. At that time I reminded the Deputy Prime Minister that the United Nations General Assembly had approved a comprehensive convention regarding the rights of the child.

Furthermore, I went on to share with the House that Canadian governments, both past and present, had spoken out very strongly and enthusiastically with regard to the rights of the child. However, when it comes to the issue of child care, that seems to be another issue as far as this particular government is concerned.

In 1984 and again in 1988, the present administration made promises while in opposition and thereafter while in government with regard to bringing in comprehensive legislation regarding child care in this country. It was reaffirmed in two Throne Speeches. Canadians from coast to coast felt some comfort in the fact that perhaps the long-awaited program for child care would be finally legislated by the Government of Canada.

However, that was not the case. As a result, today as we had in those early years of 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and now in 1990, a major crisis is evolving regarding child care in this country.

We lack thousands of spaces for young Canadians in need. The need is well documented. Committees have been struck by this House. Members have raised this issue on the floor of the House of Commons. More important, journalists, as well as those who work in the child care field, have been announcing this crisis all across the country.

The crisis is of particular importance to natives. It should be noted that there are only 70 child care centres