

The Economy

First, the federal government has not co-ordinated its youth programs. There is not one department to which one can write asking what are the youth programs available to the young people of Canada. I know, because we ended up going to all the departments asking for all the programs. We have found through our research that there are 58 federal programs dealing with young people, which are spread through 16 different departments. We were asked by one department to give them the compilation which we had made of the various programs so that they might know what programs were available. I think this is rather sad. There should be some bureau or some official organization at the federal level to which the young people can write, asking what programs the federal government is providing for them. I have here a 91-page list with a description of every type of program available for young people, what program was phased in and what program was phased out in the last three years, how much money the government has spent, how many people have been employed, and at what cost.

The second problem is that although there is a rather large section in the Department of the Secretary of State which deals with young Canadians, the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) has no idea of what the department is dealing with. When I was first invited to become the youth critic for our party, I wrote to the Secretary of State asking him to give me a list of all the post-secondary institutions in Canada. His officials could not do so, and yet we spend through that department tens of millions of dollars a year financing post-secondary instruction. But they could not give me a list. They asked me if I could give them a list, if I had one. We then wrote to the ten provinces and territories to find out what post-secondary institutions they had.

Prior to concluding at one o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that nowhere at the federal level is there a list of the volunteer organizations in this country dealing with young people, whether it be the Red Cross, the St. John's Ambulance, or Boy Scouts. We have now compiled a list of well over 250 of these organizations.

I should like to continue my comments at two o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

● (1402)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. Prior to the luncheon adjournment the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick) had the floor. He has ten minutes remaining.

[Mr. Dick.]

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had 12 minutes remaining, but in any event I appreciate Your Honour's notice. As I was indicating before lunch, it is unfortunate the federal government does not have an organization within its entire bureaucracy which can inform young Canadians of the range of programs that are offered. The government does not have a list of its own programs in any one location. It is necessary for people to go to various government departments when seeking such information.

The government does not have a list of the Canadian post-secondary institutions which it funds. We were anxious to receive such a list, but were unable to get it. It does not have a list of the voluntary organizations which help young people and the youth groups in Canada, although lip service is paid to those organizations and they are under government direction. This is unfortunate and the federal government should do something to remedy the problem as soon as possible.

● (1412)

One thing the government has done is to blame its problems on youth unemployment and everybody else, without taking any responsibility for itself. A few years ago the government blamed it on a world recession, then it was on world inflation, and now it blames it on a world-wide phenomenon, but of course it is not as problematical in Austria, Germany or England as it is in this country. Our problem is magnified over that of the other countries.

Recently, of course, the government blamed it on the baby boom. If ministers had been looking at the statistics they could have seen how many children were born some years ago, and predicted that they were going to have a large influx of people into the work force at this stage. They were also blaming it on the young people, saying that they have too high an expectation and they are not prepared to take any job, but only a select type of job.

It is not fair to blame the problem on people who happen to have an education and who aspire to a certain type of job, by saying that they are afraid to take any job. People are entitled to these aspirations. Last year we heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), when he was at the University of Toronto, telling the young people there that if they did not like it they could leave Canada and fly to another country in which they could find work. That is great advice for a government which has done so little, considering such a large job has to be done.

I hear the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) is going to speak later this afternoon. He is doing a lot of chattering right now. Perhaps he can give some advice on new plans because the existing ones are not doing anything. Hopefully the minister in charge of youth unemployment will have some new ideas. Maybe they will announce them during the election campaign.

One thing this government has not recognized is its own federal statistics. If we take five-year groupings of young people in this country or of people of any age group—the 0 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 24, and the 25 to 29—we find that the five largest are those which are 5 to 9, 10 to 14,