

Employment of Graduate Students

Students could spend part of their time in college, and another part at work. This training could last for a year or two if necessary.

And as this is all about preparing the generation which will replace us, I can very well see a salary for students, whatever their studies and the profession they wish to practise. This would be a salary paid by the government out of new funds.

This salary for students is a remedy which can be applied at once. The present Prime Minister stated that in 1954 in *Cité libre*. If I may quote some extracts from this publication, he said for instance on page 34, and I quote:

The problem remains to know whether there is no other limit to unemployment than dire poverty.

And there is something else on page 35:

Fortunately there exists a remedy that can be applied at once—, it is to stimulate purchasing by delivering more money into consumers' hands. Benefits of all kinds must be widely and determinedly distributed by the state—

Hence, Mr. Speaker, the state should pay out all sorts of benefits. The Prime Minister has said so.

In my opinion, student-salary is the best investment the government can make. Now then, since the Prime Minister is holding the reins of power and is backed by a strong government, why does he not put into practice what he was advocating in 1954?

The challenge is tremendous and if there is no possibility of dialogue, many young people will see their talents go to waste. Our collective prosperity will be seriously jeopardized whereas it is of the utmost importance that our young people be associated with the development of our country.

They must discover for themselves the tasks which they can undertake. Self-help, daring, imagination and eagerness in our young people must work for Canada. If the Prime Minister is not a candle-snuffer, then let him prove it by giving our young people an opportunity to put their energy to work for the promotion of our population and the development of our country.

● (8:40 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, to say the least, the speech the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) made this afternoon was interesting because he ignored almost completely the main point of the motion brought forward by the Social Credit Party, the amendment moved by the spokesman for the official opposition and the subamendment moved on behalf of our party by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom).

The minister chose deliberately to spend most of his time making jest of the economic theories of the Social Credit Party. I do not agree with those theories, but it seems to me the minister might well have taken the opportunity to deal with the important questions which

[Mr. Godin.]

concern the people of this country and which are being written about every day in the newspapers, including Liberal newspapers, of Canada. These questions include the fact that we have more unemployment in Canada than we have had for a dozen or more years, the fact that our young people make up almost half of the unemployed, and the fact that a number of people in the large cities, including Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, who have no work and no unemployment insurance protection are forced to try to obtain emergency welfare assistance because they do not qualify, on the basis of residence, for regular welfare.

All these are problems the minister ignored almost completely. He was proud of the fact that in 1970 we have had such a small increase in the cost of living. The minister did not draw from this fact the obvious conclusion that the government's policies of restraint and of not going ahead with necessary programs to a large extent have led to the unemployment we now face.

The minister attempted to chastise my colleague, the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, because he said the government had deliberately created unemployment. The fact is that on more than one occasion the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said publicly both inside and outside the House that he was prepared to be tough in dealing with inflation, and that even if Canada had a 6 per cent unemployment rate he would not be daunted in his program of restraint and restrictions in order to try to stop the increasing cost of living. The Prime Minister and the government have succeeded brilliantly! The fact is that Canada has a higher rate of unemployment than any other industrialized country in the western world.

Last year, according to OECD reports, average unemployment in the major countries of the western world was as follows. In Germany it was half of one per cent; in Sweden it was 1.9 per cent; in the United Kingdom it was 2.2 per cent; in Italy it was 3.1 per cent; in Belgium it was 3.3 per cent; and in the United States of America, our neighbour to the south, it was 4.1 per cent. In Canada it was 4.6 per cent. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may be proud of the economic miracle they have created in their moves to slow down and stop inflation, but the unemployment we have, which is the largest of any country in the western world, is a direct result of their policies.

Canada's average unemployment figure of 4.6 per cent for last year is much lower than it will be this year. This year's average will be over 6 per cent. Last month in this country almost 500,000 people were unemployed. A very conservative estimate I have seen—which I am sure is not very different from the estimate prepared for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Prime Minister by government economists—indicates that for February and March of 1971 we will have close to 800,000 people unemployed. In fact, I have seen an estimate by a very responsible and respected economic research organization which indicates that the average for the whole of next year will be over 6 per cent.

What is particularly disturbing is that included in the figure of 476,000 unemployed for next year, 212,000 or 45