

Summer 1983 youth unemployment expected to be 25%

Money employing youth down

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JOBS FOR YOUTH
PART II

In 1980-81 the Province spent \$58.80 on job creation per unemployed youth. This year the ratio fell to \$45.28 per youth, a 23 per cent decrease. In essence, available funding for youth programs has dropped by almost a quarter during exactly the period when young people are most in need of help.

The situation is not likely to improve in the summer of 1983. With youth unemployment expected to be near 25 per cent, it would seem logical for the government to devote extra resources to combatting the problem. Indications are that this will not occur.

Funding for one of the three major summer programs has already been announced. Experience '83 will receive \$12 million, exactly the same amount as in 1982. By the government's own estimate, 300 fewer jobs will be created this year than last...the Experience program has suffered a stunning decline in support during recent years.

From peak support of \$19.5 million and 13,610 in 1979-83, the program has lost 38.5 per cent of its funding and 37.5 per cent of its job creation capacity. Yet in the summer of 1979 the youth unemployment rate was 11.7 per cent, less than half what it will be this year.

STUDENT AID
There is considerable concern that young people might have to

suspend or terminate post-secondary education, lacking sufficient earnings. The maximum OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) grant assistance increased this year from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per term, a 4.5 per cent increase which meant that students received less money in real terms than in the previous year, given the average inflation rate over 1982 of 10.8 per cent. At the same time the minimum contribution from summer earnings was increased 18.7 per cent, from \$60 to \$70 per week.

The total number of students receiving assistance increased substantially from last year. Based on preliminary figures through to February 1983, about 98,000 students will receive provincial loans and/or grants this year. However, the increase is not as large as it sounds when a 10.4 per cent increase in college enrolment and a 5.5 per cent increase in university enrolment are factored into the calculation. The ratio of students receiving assistance then rises only slightly from about 31 per cent in the past two years to 34.4 per cent this year.

MANPOWER TRAINING
While well over half a million Ontarians are unable to find work, certain skilled labour positions go unfilled or must be filled by imported labour...the Ontario Manpower Commission estimates that by 1986 there may be a shortage of as many as 45,000 skilled workers in Ontario...it is

clear that manpower training and apprenticeship programs have not



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received the support they deserve.

Such programs should be increased to take advantage of the opportunities to retrain idle workers and unemployed graduates, and training periods should be kept realistic. While the government must take the initiative, the total financing for training programs need not and should not come entirely from the taxpayers. Co-operative, shared-cost programs with private industry and labour should be the major directions pursued.

CO-OPERATIVE STUDENTS

The Liberal Task Force Report noted widespread agreement on the value of co-operative education programs, at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. Programs which alternate academic study with practical work experience provide young people with expanded learning and earning opportunities. They also allow employers to train

the future work force in the skills which will be in demand when the students graduate.

TASK FORCE REPORT
It is worth reviewing the recommendations of the earlier Report, and summarizing progress made toward their implementation.

1. Provide more training opportunities for those who are currently unemployed, in order to meet skilled manpower demands, particularly in the new technologies, when the economy improves...NO ACTION.
2. Encourage through incentives and/or require through legislation, on-the-job training by Ontario industry, with a view to meeting our own skilled worker needs...NO ACTION.
3. Restructure the apprenticeship program to permit easier access and reduce the current high dropout rate...NO ACTION.
4. Make a realistic and concerted attempt to change the public's conception of the value and importance of skilled trades, with a view to removing the stigma which is still attached to blue collar work...NO ACTION.
5. Improve upon the present counsellor to student ratio of 1:400, and provide in-service opportunities for counsellors to keep abreast of changes in business and industry...NO ACTION.
6. Introduce career counselling at the elementary school level...SOME PROGRESS.
7. Re-evaluate the present secondary school

curriculum, and make mandatory such core subjects as English, Mathematics, and Science to ensure that young people are equipped to be flexible and adaptable in today's changing labour market...IMPLEMENTED.

8. In this connection, particularly stress the importance of female students continuing to study Maths and Sciences, enabling them to qualify for the new technologies...SOME PROGRESS.

9. Introduce into the schools a mandatory credit course on career guidance, job readiness, and development of marketable skills...NO ACTION.

10. Strongly support, and provide effective Ministerial guidelines, as well as mandatory standards, for co-op education and work experience programs in secondary schools, which provide a more realistic bridge from the school to the work environment...NO ACTION.

11. Encourage greater liaison between business, industry and education...LIMITED PROGRESS.

12. Improve manpower forecasting by government and business to assist counsellors and students to make appropriate career decisions...LIMITED PROGRESS, MAINLY BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Expansion at trailer park

A Halton Hills trailer park has been given permission to grow to 225 more sites, following a debate by the town's general committee Monday night. The committee's recommendation (which will be reviewed by council next Monday night) enlarged a planning staff proposal which would have allowed Nor Halton Park to add 175 new sites. The committee permitted Nor Halton's Mervin Barber 225 new sites to join the camp's approximate 240 existing camp spots. Mr. Barber said it's unlikely he'll be ready to expand this year or next, noting that some of his neighbors near his property (at the corner of the Milton-Halton Hills town line and Sideroad 22) object to the physical growth of his business.

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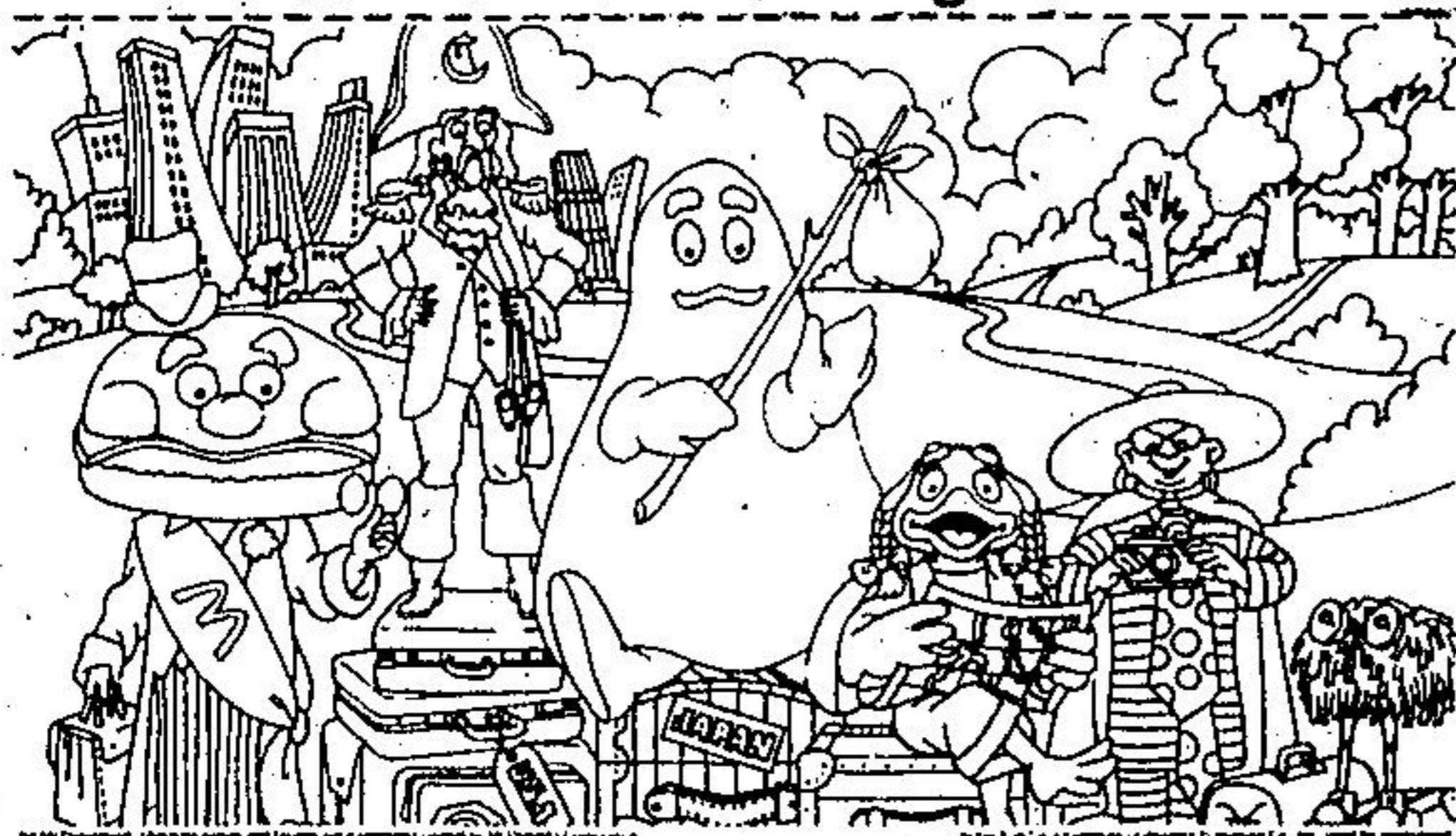
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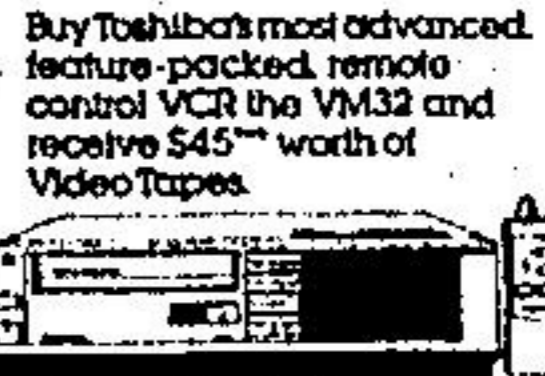
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