

Subject: Youth Employment

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

Stupidity and the Universe are finite, although I am not sure about stupidity - Albert Einstein

This to my way of thinking is an appropriate characterisation of the current Federal Program for Youth and Student Employment in North Vancouver.

Think for a moment - we all know that youth need money to pay for food, rent, education, transportation etc. In order to get money they need jobs. Students need money to pay for tuition fees, books and to exist while they are studying.

So the Federal Government has opened an office on West Esplanade in North Vancouver, they even invited Don Bell as speaker and they even invited me to speak at the opening of the office. They hired office staff to tell everybody that this is an employment office for students. The purpose, says the pamphlet, is to tell taxpayers that students need jobs during the summer months so they can pay foryou read it once already, so I will not repeat it again.


Intelligence and experience tells me that the money the Federal Government spends on such offices is largely wasted. This is how my thinking goes. If the creation of jobs is the purpose of this programs, why not give the money to local government so it can hire students for the summer.

The Federal Government would obviously have to set strict criteria. It should include a contractual commitment by the municipality for both a specific man-hours and type of jobs including a description of the project the money is asked for - The project should not be a duplication of work planned by the municipality as part of its normal work and budget program. New Municipal Park projects for instance might fall within the guidelines. .

Municipalities should have to apply for such funding in a timely fashion and the money should only be used to provide jobs to students during the summer months.

This would make sense to me. However, this is NOT how it is done. The way it is done is for the government to rent an office, hire office staff and hang out a sign stating this is a summer student employment office set up for the specific purpose to tell people that students need jobs for the summer so they can work and earn enough money to pay for their education. Oh, and it also says, please employ a student for the summer.

Remember what Albert Einstein said about stupidity. Let me repeat it here. "Stupidity and the Universe are finite but I am not sure about stupidity".

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