

able to provide as many jobs for students this summer as they did last year or the year before. The government should take this into consideration and try to work out special programs applicable to these regions. They will need special attention this summer if even a small proportion of the students concerned are to find full-time summer employment.

In the second place, I believe the government should co-ordinate its student employment program as closely as possible with the plans of the provinces. This is of particular importance in the case of Saskatchewan, the Maritimes and Quebec. Last year, even though 93 per cent of the students concerned did find summer employment of some kind it was not, in all cases, full-time employment at a good wage. Just because a student has a job does not mean it will provide sufficient income for him to return to school again. This observation applies particularly to girls who in many cases cannot get jobs which pay wages as high as some of the men can command.

Finally, the whole question of student employment is very much a part of the government's over-all economic and financial policy. Also, it must not be forgotten that there are young persons who are not students and who also need to find employment. Forty per cent of the unemployed in Canada are under the age of 25, and this situation must be borne in mind when we examine any of the plans which the minister may produce.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, according to the minister, there may be about 641,000 secondary and post-secondary students looking for a job this summer.

The Department of Manpower and Immigration will hire about 570 students to take part in placement and referral operations, whereas various government departments and agencies will enlist 11,305, on a total of 641,000.

Mr. Speaker, the matter of summer employment for students is a most urgent and serious one. If we do not take steps to provide them with work during the summer months, they will find themselves something else to do. Of course, this is not the sole concern of the central government. Provinces, municipalities, school boards and private enterprise can also co-operate. We have been told that the Chambers of Commerce are now looking into this matter.

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Questions

In my region, for example, the mining companies hire local students during the summer months. The Noranda mine, for one, had between 1,000 and 1,200 students on the payroll last year, but this year they have decided to hire only some 200.

I believe that the government could provide some incentives for private industry in order that students be given summer employment. If the government were to co-operate, I think that many private companies would hire young people. Even if that were to cost something to the government, it would still be less expensive than leaving our youths to their own devices or to activities of which no one approves.

Mr. Speaker, summer employment for students is a very serious problem and I am convinced that the government, with the full backing of the opposition parties, should suggest to the provinces that they tackle this issue so that as many students as possible will find summer jobs.

We have but one wish, Mr. Speaker: that action be taken in order to assure our youths that they will enjoy some security thanks to the summer jobs that will be found for them.

[English]

EXCISE ACT

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the Minister of National Revenue) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-209, to amend the Excise Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

STUDY OF POSSIBLE SALE OF POLYMER SHARE CAPITAL

Question No. 423—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. Has the government studied, will it study, or is it studying the possibility of selling all or part of the share capital of Polymer Corporation and, if so, will it table these studies in the House?

2. Who conducted, or is conducting, the studies concerning the total or partial sale of Polymer Corporation?

3. Was Polymer Corporation exempted from the provisions of the Government Companies Operation Act and, if so, for what reasons?

[Translation]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): 1 and 2. The government