

materials into useable goods, and export useable goods rather than export our natural wealth in the form of raw materials.

I am sure the people of Prince Rupert would endorse the concepts I am now expressing and would want me to express their appreciation to the minister for his announcement. We look forward to further action in the future.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETENTION OF CANADIAN FORCES BASE AT SUMMERSIDE IN PRESENT ROLE

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it seems to be my day for making announcements. Hon. members will recall that in 1969 it was announced by the government that the Canadian Forces Base at Summerside, Prince Edward Island, was having its life extended as a military base to the end of 1973 in order to provide time during which it might be determined whether alternative uses could be found for the base. This effort has been going on for quite some time, and I think it is generally known that it has not been possible to obtain enough in the way of alternative uses to take the place of the base. So, as one who worked on that committee, and on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Benson), I wish to inform the House that Canadian Forces Base Summerside, Prince Edward Island, will continue in its present operational role.

• (1420)

It will be recalled that Canadian Forces Base Summerside was one of several defence bases that were recommended for closure under an armed forces base consolidation plan that was worked out some years ago. In December, 1969, an extension of its operation was granted until April of this year to permit a study of the economic impact that closure would have on the local community and the province. A thorough investigation of the alternatives has clearly demonstrated that the base should be confirmed in its present role.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, the announcement made by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) on behalf of his colleague the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Benson) is most welcome. I especially appreciate it as the base to which he refers is in my constituency. I am delighted that this decision has been made not only because of the high operational quality that has been maintained there from a defence point of view, the high morale that has existed and the higher than average level of competency that has been demonstrated by the personnel but because, and in some ways more important, this base is a very important economic factor in the life of Prince Edward Island and in the future of the town of Summerside. On all these scores the announcement is indeed very welcome not only for its own value but also because it removes the doubt which clouded the economic future of that area since the suggestion was first made that the base might not continue.

25104—9½

Opportunities for Youth Program

In closing and on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say that I am delighted that the Premier of Prince Edward Island is in Your Honour's gallery at the moment to hear this important announcement directly.

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[Translation]

YOUTH

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON 1972 OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a progress report to the House on the response of young people to this year's Opportunities for Youth program.

On January 13, I announced that the budget for the 1972 program was \$33,978,000 and that this money would fund jobs and activities for about 29,000 young men and women. Another 1,860 non-paying activities will also be created by the program. At the same time, I advised that the deadline for project applications was midnight, March 8. In other words, Mr. Speaker, applicants had almost two months to prepare their submissions. They were advised and helped in filling their application forms by 75 program field officers who were deployed across the country meeting young people at high schools, on college and university campuses, and conferring with municipal authorities and representatives of various public organizations.

Program officers and officials of the department assured that there was an adequate supply of application forms. Some 200,000 English and 100,000 French forms were available from various government outlets and from program workers. The program was extensively promoted in the print and broadcasting media.

As we anticipated, the younger generation's interest in the program has remained at a high level. Once again, they have shown their resourcefulness by the quality and variety of their proposals.

Canadian youth in all parts of the country submitted some 19,102 projects to the Opportunities for Youth Program head-quarters here in Ottawa. These applications are now being coded and processed. The spread of projects by region is as follows: Atlantic provinces, 3,189 or 17 per cent; Quebec, 6,688 or 35 per cent; Ontario, 4,046 or 21 per cent; Prairie provinces, 2,912 or 15 per cent; British Columbia, 2,104 or 11 per cent, and national, 173 or roughly one per cent. Project proposals average \$11,949 each and would include an average of 10 participants. This is close to what program planners consider the ideal project size which should cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and employ between eight and 12 people.

In my January 13 press conference I said that we hoped to be able to put more stress on assisting students from disadvantaged environments. I think that with the very strong response we have received from the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and the rural sections of the Prairie provinces—60 per cent of the prairie applications came from rural areas—with this kind of response, I repeat, it should