

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Come on, get up on your feet and stay there.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The answer the Prime Minister gave me earlier is the kind of answer we get every day in the House. The Prime Minister is deliberately misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Come on; have the guts to stand up, little Lord Fauntleroy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED—PROJECT CRITERIA—PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. On a number of occasions I have been attempting to find out from the Secretary of State whether or not further funds will be provided for the Opportunities for Youth program in light of the heavy demands and the number of submissions made under the program. I should also like to know when the minister plans to make public the division of these programs according to the early criteria of a regional mix and the levels of unemployment across the country.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I told the House before that I was confident that additional funds will be made available to the Department of the Secretary of State for this program. I said on many occasions that I thought I would be able very soon to give a specific answer on this matter, and I reiterate this statement. As to the application of criteria for the distribution of projects, I think that they have been clearly established.

As far as the distribution of funds throughout the country is concerned, we said that it would be done on the basis of the unemployment rate among young people in various parts of the country, and this is how the distribution is being done now, that is, according to these criteria.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the minister heard me when I asked him whether there would be funds additional to the \$15 million that has been provided. Perhaps he would answer that question and also indicate what steps are being taken to overcome the considerable frustration of the provinces in having programs adequately and effectively considered by the national office. Would he also say whether steps

Inquiries of the Ministry

have been taken to have provincial representation in the national office, as I believe has happened in the case of at least one province?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I think that as far as the first part of the question is concerned, the hon. member is wrong; in fact my answer was so lengthy that I thought you would lose patience, Sir, and ask me to proceed to the second part of the question. The hon. member will therefore find my answer in today's *Hansard*.

As for the second part, if the member knows of a case which is particularly serious, I would ask him to bring it to my attention.

In so far as frustration is concerned, I can understand the young people's impatience, but I announced in the House several weeks ago the deadline we have set—it is May 15 for the final designation of all subsidized projects. We are not quite certain of being ready for that date, but we hope that should delays occur they will be very brief.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary. I did not hear the minister answer my previous supplementary about the steps that are being taken. Since there is considerable frustration regarding the consideration of projects on a regional and on a provincial basis, what steps are being taken to have representations directly from the provinces? In the case of Prince Edward Island there seems to be a very poor relationship.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—NUMBER TO BE EMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State. Is the minister yet in a position to say with any certainty how many jobs he expects will be created for students under the Opportunities for Youth program?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, not with certainty, not with any certainty whatever at this stage.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: In view of the fact that thousands of students are still likely to be without jobs this summer, is the government contemplating any further programs to employ students?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Not as far as I know, Mr. Speaker. However, the programs that are put into effect, and about which the government never said that they would completely solve the problem, do reduce it considerably, and this the hon. member may see for himself if he takes a look at what is going on in the provinces.