

Inquiries of the Ministry

guidelines and application forms necessary for those interested in participating in the Opportunities for Youth program are ready? Have they been made available to prospective applicants in the various cities of Canada and, if so, can they be made public by the minister today?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Besides, information concerning this program and the conditions for participating will be made known to hon. members within a few hours.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he can give the House an estimate of the number of students who will be employed this summer under the program and the length of such employment. Has the government calculated this?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am unable to give an estimate concerning the Opportunities for Youth program, due to the fact that on the one hand, some people will be involved in this program as mere participants while on the other hand, some young workers will be paid to accelerate, improve and promote this participation. It would not be therefore without some misgivings that I would at this time attempt to give an estimate the inaccuracy of which could justifiably be criticized by the hon. member should my projection happen to be false.

[English]

PLANS RESPECTING PROVISION OF SUMMER HOSTELS
FOR TRANSIENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement that the government will support local initiative in connection with youth hostels, can the minister give the House any more details of the government's plans regarding summer hostels for young transients?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, an objective of 200,000 bed nights was mentioned, and this objective will be achieved through local, municipal and provincial initiative, with the help of special funds provided for this purpose in this year's summer employment program.

[English]

TIME LIMIT ON APPLICATIONS UNDER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Mr. Colin D. Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth): I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether there is a fixed

[Mr. Orlikow.]

time limit for applications under the Opportunities for Youth program to be filed in Ottawa?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there is no set date, but for those who wish to submit projects, the best time would be "as soon as possible, if not sooner", as the saying goes, and certainly not later, at any rate, than April 15 next.

[English]

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, the April 15 deadline was the date I was going to suggest. I thank the minister.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—METHOD OF
ALLOCATING FUNDS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister state whether the moneys available for the Opportunities for Youth program will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis or on a regional basis? Are there regional ceilings or provincial ceilings on the moneys available or will this aspect be covered in the press release?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I have not heard the last words spoken by the hon. member. To his first question, my answer is that all the factors he mentioned will be taken into consideration, according to some order of priority, but not necessarily the order in which they were listed by the hon. member.

[Later:]

PLANS RESPECTING PROVISION OF SUMMER HOSTEL
FOR TRANSIENTS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the hon. Secretary of State a question concerning his hostel program for transient youth. Could he tell the House whether he has met with Quebec authorities with regard to this hostel program for transient youth which, it would seem, is exclusively under provincial jurisdiction since it is connected with education?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, we have not had a special meeting devoted to the matter of young people's hostels, but we have had meetings where this matter was brought up. The government of the province of Quebec has agreed, as we were agreed before, that hostels for transient youth providing studying, education and folklore training facilities, etc., may and in fact do come under provincial authority at the present time. But the provinces, Quebec included, also admitted that federal authorities are responsible for setting up shelter-type hostels where the stay is limited to one or two nights and which would allow all young Canadians to travel across the country.