

Student Summer Employment

in providing consultative assistance to students interested in starting selfhelp or entrepreneurial projects.

This year, as well, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is making an important contribution to the campaign by encouraging its 125,000 members to provide productive summer jobs to students registered with Canada Manpower Centres. My department has appointed five regional co-ordinators whose special assignment will be to ensure the effective functioning of the campaign in each region.

I should like to emphasize that if we are to match last year's successful campaign a very high degree of co-operation will be required by business and industry in every sector of the economy, and by other levels of government. In this connection I might note the "Hire a Student" campaigns of a number of provincial governments and the practice of a number of newspapers of offering free advertising space to students looking for summer jobs. Summer employment for students is an old and valued tradition in our society. Today it becomes a necessary and useful exercise, both for the students and employers.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the minister is so proud of his statement that he could not let us have a copy until he delivered it or whether it was difficult to prepare and was not ready until the last minute before delivery. However, there are some comments I wish to make at this time.

I hope the minister will make every effort to develop a fully co-ordinated attack on the problem of student unemployment and the finding of adequate employment for students. I hope the minister receives full co-operation from other governments and from industry.

I wish to spend a few minutes to emphasize that, in addition to any program the minister may mount, it is obvious that the number of students who receive employment this summer will depend not only on his efforts and the efforts of those associated with him but upon the general employment situation in Canada. There can be no question that the general economic policy of the government, justified in the name of fighting inflation, has created unemployment across the country. A situation has been created whereby students looking for work this summer will be competing with those already seeking employment. The general state of unemployment is a

[Mr. MacEachen.]

very important factor, although the Minister of Manpower and Immigration did not deem it worthy of mention this afternoon.

There can be no question about the importance of summer employment for students. There can be no doubt about the reaction that will set in among young Canadians who are forced to drop out of either high school or post-high school education for financial reasons. There can be no question about the seriousness of this situation to the individuals involved and to the country as a whole. Those who are forced to drop out may never get back to anything like as advantageous a position. So I urge the federal government to review its general policy with a view to increasing the opportunity for students and others to secure employment in Canada this summer.

In addition to special programs such as he has announced the minister should set in process machinery for determining to the fullest extent possible how many students are affected and how many will be unable to obtain employment. He should obtain this information in good time so that in consultation with the provinces measures can be taken to reduce to a minimum the number of students who will have to drop out of school because of unemployment.

I do not want to be unfair to the minister personally, but I suggest that in the circumstances, and given the outlook facing us, he has made a highly complacent statement this afternoon.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): First, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for having given me a copy of his statement. I might say that in future I would appreciate getting such statements before he begins to make them instead of two or three minutes after he has started.

My first impression is that the statement is highly optimistic, that he did not present the real problem of student unemployment this summer. An article in the *Toronto Star* last Saturday drew attention to the prospect of serious student unemployment in Ontario this summer. Failure of a student to obtain a job this summer may mean inability to continue his studies, and his dropping out of school or university.

There is a special problem to be faced in areas already suffering from economic depression—the prairie provinces, Saskatchewan in particular, the Maritimes and the rural parts of Quebec. Many of these areas are not