

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 16, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF SPEAKER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Speaker: This House is greatly honoured today by the visit of a distinguished parliamentary colleague representing one of Canada's friends across the Pacific in the person of the Hon. Hyo Sang Rhee, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Republic of Korea is fortunate in having a Speaker who brings to the exercise of his duties not only a lengthy parliamentary experience but also the thoughtfulness of the eminent scholar in philosophy and literature, fields in which Mr. Rhee has achieved international recognition.

Speaker Rhee's visit honours the House of Commons and the people of Canada. On behalf of this House, I extend the warmest welcome to Mr. Speaker Rhee and wish him a most pleasant and successful journey in our country.

● (2:10 p.m.)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

Second and third reports of Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization—Mr. Blair.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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MANPOWER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words to the House about the steps which the government has undertaken in order to provide this summer a program of student employment and activities. Hon. members may know that the number of university and high school students released from studies this summer will number more than 1,800,000. This represents an increase of close to 100,000 over the summer of 1970. Some of these persons will be seeking jobs; many of the rest will be in search of other

equally meaningful summer activities. It is in the national interest that the wishes of as many persons as possible in each category be accommodated.

Few countries in the world are able to encourage students at the secondary and post-secondary levels to assume part of the cost of their own education by means of earnings from part-time or seasonal employment. Canada is one of them. Yet even in this country the economy has not always been able to accommodate all of those who would like to work. The advantages of summer employment are so obvious, however, in terms of self-support, of broadening of outlook, of acquisition of new skills and experience, that every effort to assist on the part of governments and business is justified. There is equal justification for assistance to students who do not seek work but who are nevertheless desirous of occupying their summer vacations in an otherwise rewarding and worthwhile fashion. The talents and energies of all these young people can contribute much to Canada during the summer months if properly utilized.

However desirable the goal of summer employment for students may be, it must not be pursued in a fashion that reduces the opportunities of employment for those persons who are in or are entering the permanent Canadian labour force. Ideally, one of the results of properly designed programs of summer employment and student activity should be the avoidance of competition for permanent jobs with adults. The programs which the government proposes, and in which it needs and is seeking the co-operation of other levels of government and the private sector, have been drawn up with this in mind. They are aimed at the provision of summer jobs or summer occupations for students. Every effort is being made to avoid competition for jobs between students and permanent members of the labour force.

Such a task is a difficult one in any summer. This year, however, job opportunities will not reach their peak until the summer months while the influx into the labour market of some hundreds of thousands of students will take place during the spring months.

[*Translation*]

The federal government accepts its obligation, as a major employer, to provide as many temporary jobs as possible within the public service. It is also encouraging actively other employers, in both the public and private sectors, to employ students for the summer months. Both government and industry recognize at the same time another requirement, however. It is to avoid "make-work" activities which contribute little to the national wellbeing either now or in the future. Employment opportunities—whether permanent or temporary—must either contribute to present productivity or serve to upgrade our future labour force and so contribute to an increase of productivity and output in years to come.