

Oral Questions

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I followed this debate, but I have trouble following the minister.

How can the minister keep saying that since the election, no Canadian publishers showed any interest in purchasing Ginn, when in January, the president of Canada Publishing, Mr. Ronald Besse, advised the CDIC for at least the fourth time since 1989 that he intended to acquire Ginn Publishing. How can the minister justify his statement? When is the minister telling the truth? In the House or in the lobby, to the *Toronto Star*?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, I realize the hon. member has trouble following me, because since I became responsible for Amateur Sport, I have learned how to do some pretty fancy footwork.

I do not appreciate words being put into my mouth. What I said is that, to my knowledge, no firm and specific offers had been made for Ginn. That is what I said.

* * *

[English]

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Rey D. Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development.

High school and post-secondary students in Winnipeg North, as I am sure in all ridings, are worried about job prospects this summer, which is fast approaching.

How will the minister ensure that the forthcoming summer employment program will meet the young people's increased demands for jobs? How will the government create the linkage between this program and its upcoming initiatives from the youth services corps and training internship to better serve the needs of young Canadians?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I also thank other members of this caucus for their representations over the last months about the need to enhance our student employment program.

I am very pleased to announce that the government has decided to increase summer employment by 20 per cent at a cost of over \$20 million. That increased amount will be especially directed toward linkages between summer employment and the employer that will continue to be the mentor of those students throughout the entire year.

We think this is a very innovative approach and will provide additional help to the many deserving students who want to go back to school and get good training for their future.

• (1445)

KEMANO PROJECT

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

On March 11 I questioned the minister with regard to intervenor funding for participation in the Kemano completion hearings and the equality of access for concerned groups to that funding.

Unfortunately the minister did not respond to my inquiry concerning equal access but chose instead to remind the House of how there was not a bottomless pit of money and that the federal government was going to act responsibly in respect to federal spending.

If this is the case, will the minister confirm if his government has hired Farris and company, one of the most expensive law firms in Canada, to represent the government at the BCUC hearings instead of using Department of Justice lawyers who most assuredly are more familiar with the issue and most assuredly less expensive than Farris and company?

Mr. Harbance Singh Dhaliwal (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for asking my first question in the House.

As the hon. member knows, in the Kemano completion project the government is committed to making sure that we have an open process, a transparent process. As he also knows, thousands of pages of documents have been given out to make sure that all information is available in the BCUC hearings.

In terms of intervenor funding, as was indicated by the minister earlier we will look at groups that can apply to the department. We will be open and ensure that we will consider intervenor groups. Some budget is available but they would have to make an application. We would look at it and we would consider intervenor funding for some groups.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

The Speaker: Order, please. I am sure all hon. members would like to partake in different activities in the House, but I would ask all hon. members to cease and desist from putting up any kind of paper which would in any way distract us from our very serious business.

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I am far happier with the hon. member's response with regard to intervenor funding than the minister's. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans clearly said in a memo that only native groups would be considered for intervenor funding.

Today the parliamentary secretary says that—