

## EMPLOYMENT

## CREATION OF SUMMER STUDENT JOBS

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As he will be aware, this weekend is graduation weekend for many thousands of students across Canada. Many of them, and many still in the school system, will be unable to find jobs this summer. They face a very bleak summer. The situation is reaching crisis proportions.

Given that an estimated 200,000 Canadians students will be unable to find jobs this summer, and given that this will very seriously impair their chances of returning to university in the autumn, will the minister tell us whether the government considers the situation a crisis situation, which it really is? In that event, has the government prepared contingency plans to deal with the situation and, if so, what are they over and above the measures already announced?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, the government has always considered the employment of young people to be a major concern and a major priority. I would point out that well over 50 per cent of the people who use the wide variety of services that my department provides are under the age of 24 years.

• (1200)

In terms of special efforts for students this summer, we have not only established the Summer Youth Employment Program which will employ well over 55,000 students, but we have also established a network of close to 400 offices across Canada operated by students themselves, and which are designed to provide areas where students can register and where job placements from the private sector can be entered.

My plea, Madam Speaker, to all members of this House is to co-operate with us as we try to encourage businesses and individuals to put their job applications in those centres to provide the maximum opportunity for students. We are undertaking a major advertising campaign and making major public appeals, but if members of this House joined us I am sure we could develop a broad range of job opportunities for students.

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET PROVINCIAL COUNTERPARTS

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, what I want to register with the minister is that there are 200,000 students who are going to be out of work this summer, a great many more than last year. Student summer unemployment has increased from 11 per cent last summer to an estimated 16 per cent this summer. In my own constituency there are 2,000 students unemployed, up considerably from last year.

In the face of this crisis, Madam Speaker, I ask the minister if he would consider calling together his provincial counterparts in an all-out effort to design new job-creation programs for students this summer so that students will not have to face returning to university this fall—if they can—with higher

*Privilege—Miss MacDonald*

tuition fees and costs which they cannot possibly meet because they have been unable to make the necessary money this summer?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would like to provide one caution in terms of the remarks of the hon. member, which is not to predict what the unemployment rate will be until we have made an honest, sincere and effective effort to develop jobs for people this summer. If we start prophesying beforehand, that will defeat our purpose. At this point in time we should be maximizing our efforts to have job openings placed in those centres. Certainly I regret that many provincial governments have in fact cut back on their job efforts when the federal government has gone ahead and added job requirements through the federal public service and community groups. We will continue our efforts, but rather than harbouring great prophecies of doom it would be far more effective if members of this House got together and talked to businessmen in their constituencies to find jobs for their students.

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[Translation]

## PETITIONS

## TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented on Thursday, May 20, 1982, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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[English]

## PRIVILEGE

MISS MACDONALD—ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENT OF MR. OUELLET

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, I have given you notice of a question of privilege based on the remarks of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) in the House on May 19. I am prepared to go ahead, Madam Speaker, but in the absence of the minister I was wondering if it would be preferable to file another notice of privilege on Tuesday when he would be back in the House?

**Madam Speaker:** I would prefer that the hon. member expose her question of privilege. If I feel a reply or rebuttal or some other intervention on the part of the minister is required, I can defer my decision. A question of privilege is, in essence, a very urgent matter and would prevent the House from proceeding to other business, so it has to be heard at the earliest possible time. Therefore, I will hear the hon. member and I may defer my ruling or judgment on it.