

Inquiries of the Ministry

am not as familiar with these characters as the right hon. gentleman. I will attempt to brush up on these matters.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, it is very obvious that the department needs brushing up.

[Translation]

TELEVISION

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF TASK FORCE

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the honourable and wise Secretary of State.

Could the minister tell us when the task force he set up four months ago to study educational television will conclude its work and report to him?

[English]

Hon. Gerard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the task force is scheduled to complete its report somewhere around June 1, and up to now I have received no disturbing indications that they would not be in a position to do so.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister or the government giving any consideration to changing the policy whereby people are imported or are brought into Canada to assist in the harvesting of Canadian crops while our own Canadian students are without work and are seeking employment?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend may be aware, I did announce on Friday the continuation of movement of farm workers from the Caribbean countries. It is a very important element in the development policy of these countries and is important to the farming operations in certain parts of Ontario. However the number coming into Canada will be a very small part of the total labour demands in Canada this summer, and there will be opportunities for students.

Mr. Hales: I was aware of the announcement, Mr. Speaker, but I was asking the minister whether he had decided to change his policy since that announcement was made, because of the great number of representations.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Mr. MacEachen: I have received no representations since Friday.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In line with his promise of last week concerning a statement regarding initiative by his department on behalf of students in Canada, would the minister tell us with a little more certainty when he will be prepared to make such a statement,—because I have received an increasing number of representations from a large segment of the Canadian student body, asking for such a statement.

Mr. MacEachen: I cannot tell my hon. friend when such a statement will be made. A statement will be made, however, at an early date.

QUEBEC—MEASURES TO COMBAT
UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the minister's recent statement that separatism in the province of Quebec is substantially due to the very high levels of unemployment in that province, I should like to ask whether he is prepared to announce to the house any program his department has for immediate implementation in that province to deal with that situation.

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): I perhaps paradoxically said that to a great degree unemployment is due to separatism. Perhaps also separatism is due to the rate of unemployment. So, it is a question of the chicken and the egg. However any concrete proposal to alleviate unemployment in the Montreal region is primarily the responsibility of the new department of regional expansion, and the department of manpower, which is doing a very adequate job in retraining the chronically unemployed in that province.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct this question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. This seems to be his day. In view of the report that General de Gaulle is going to make a visit to the United States, may I ask the minister whether his department has instructed its border officials concerning what they are to say to him if he seeks to come back to Canada.