

QUEBEC—SPECIAL ACTION TO PROVIDE
EMPLOYMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In view of the statement made last night by the Prime Minister-elect of Quebec that the federal government should devote special attention to provinces of low inflation and high unemployment such as the province of Quebec, may I ask the Prime Minister what special programs or special action the government has taken to cure the very serious unemployment in that province which is suffering the consequences of the government's policy to fight inflation?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that he is inviting the Prime Minister or a representative of the government to make a general statement which should be made on motions.

MANPOWER

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MATCHING THAT OF INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): May I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration a question in reference to his statement about students as I represent one of the university areas of Canada. In view of the fact that there are 540,000 looking for work, would the government now consider matching, dollar for dollar, assistance to students from industry, business and professional men, thus helping students obtain the money they need so they can continue their courses of study? This is a very serious problem and I mentioned it the last time I was in the House.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is a serious problem. There is a large body of students coming on to the labour market and we depend upon very substantial assistance from the private sector in placing them. As I mentioned, today the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is beginning its program "Operation Placement" and it is calling upon its membership throughout Canada to assist in placing over 600,000 students. This seems to me to be constructive and in line with the suggestion made by my hon. friend.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister be good enough to speak to the Minister of Finance and see if he could get him to withdraw the white paper on tax reform in view of the fact

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that it is discouraging investment and development in this nation and causing unemployment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made a representation and he has to assume it will be taken into account by the minister.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS—ACTION TO ENSURE MAXIMUM WORK PERIOD

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. In view of the fact that last year's successful program still left almost 50 per cent of those students who got jobs employed for not much more than half or two-thirds of the summer, what steps is his department taking to ensure that students who need a full summer's work in order to return to university next fall will be able to get it rather than just work for part of the summer?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are taking the general steps that I have outlined and which proved effective last summer in obtaining employment for 93 per cent of the students who wanted it. It is true that some of the total number did not work all the months of the summer. This year we hope that the program in which we are co-operating, started by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, will be an added feature and will help extend the period of employment. This is in addition to the heavy advertising that we have done, that provincial governments have done and that newspapers have done in an effort to build up the capacity of employers to take on a very large number of young people for a very short time, creating jobs for them. We think that all these efforts will help generally and also help the specific problem mentioned by my hon. friend.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Should the efforts of his department not meet with the success anticipated in finding employment for students, is he prepared to consider enlarging the scope of the grant and loan provisions so that students can return to university?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the question is hypothetical and cannot be asked in those terms.