

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 4, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MANPOWER

STATEMENT ON STUDENT SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, a little over two months ago I reported to the House briefly on the results of the student summer employment program conducted last year by my department. Today I wish to tell the House some of the things we are doing, and will be doing, to help ensure equally encouraging results this summer.

As hon. members may know, a National Committee on Student Summer Employment has been set up to co-ordinate efforts in this field. It is made up of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the University and College Placement Association, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Council of Canada and my department. This committee, in co-operation with other interested groups such as labour bodies, provincial governments, business and industry organizations, farm groups and student groups, has been working throughout the winter and spring to see that every effort is made to find jobs this summer for students.

Some hon. members will have total and immediate recall of the importance and urgency of obtaining suitable summer employment as a means of providing for college or university tuition fees and other costs. Some others, although obliged to cast a little farther into the mists of time, will, I am sure, be able to sympathize with the desire of young people to work in order to finance next year's college or university term.

In my last report I outlined the success of last year's campaign which resulted in some 93 per cent of nearly 350,000 post-secondary students who sought work being successful in obtaining it. This summer, we estimate that some 385,000 students who are, or will be, enrolled in post-secondary institutions will

be on the labour market looking for jobs. Over all—taking both secondary and post-secondary categories—we expect that approximately 641,000 students may be seeking employment this summer, an increase of 60,000 over last year.

My department is mobilizing its resources to assist students in search of summer employment. As a part of this effort we will be hiring some 570 students to take part in placement and referral operations and in other departmental work across Canada. In this connection, I might say that student help engaged by my department last year was most effective in contributing to the success of the employment campaign. My department as a large employer of students for summer work has expressed complete satisfaction in the type of services rendered and we are in a position to recommend a similar course to other employers.

The federal government will this summer be taking on at least 11,365 students throughout the various departments and agencies. This represents a 27 per cent increase in the number hired in the past two years. These students will earn some \$12,242,000, an average of more than \$1,000 per student. I want to emphasize that this employment is in no sense a make-work program but that useful and effective work is performed by the students. Because of the very large numbers of students who will be seeking employment, federal government hirings will necessarily be limited to students either entering or already attending post-secondary institutions.

In addition to providing employment for more than 11,300 students the federal government, through my department, is allotting \$260,000 for a national advertising campaign designed to enlist the support of employers in providing jobs for students.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Canada Manpower Centres across Canada are offering their services in assisting students to obtain summer work and are working closely with employers in compiling inventories of appropriate employment opportunities. Of the approximately 570 students to be employed by my department, 375 students will assist our regular staff in developing employment opportunities for students and