

tion of priority in respect of the training moneys presently available, and the original philosophy was to direct these moneys to those in the labour force for a longer period of time as well as those who have been unemployed. I think there is a lot to be said for that basic philosophy. Certainly the question of adjusting priorities is under constant review.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, in order to try to help the minister clarify his explanation of why unemployment has increased in Canada, is the essence of what he was laboriously trying to explain to the House simply that the reason unemployment has increased is that there are not so many people working in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. John's East.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—
SPECIAL MANPOWER UPGRADING PROGRAM

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the alarmingly high rate of unemployment among younger people, is the minister now prepared to undertake a study of the unemployment in this age group to see if a special manpower upgrading program is warranted?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The question of the availability of training programs for this age group as well as for others is indeed under constant consideration. Many of the people in this age group, of course, are able to take advantage of these programs although, with the rule about having been in the labour force for a certain period of time, a certain portion of that group is not eligible under the present law.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister with regard to the 60,000 extra unemployed. In view of the fact that the Christmas season is under way, would the Prime Minister bring joy to the hearts of the Canadian people by removing the Minister of Finance from office and adopting some of our suggestions?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration—the Minister of Labour could also take note of the question—whether he would consider making available to the House the significant information which I understand is accumulated in his department, and perhaps also in the Department of Labour, indicating how serious the unemployment predictions are, so that we could make suggestions and offer proposals in order to help alleviate the problem among young people especially?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I think that is the same question as was asked a moment ago and which I answered at that time.

Mr. Lundrigan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration is not responding to the questions. Also, he is certainly misleading the House with his use or misuse of statistics in that he continually compares the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for one month with the previous month. The only statistic that should be used—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that that is not really a point of order but a debate between the minister and the hon. member. If he has a supplementary question, I would be glad to recognize him.

Mr. Lundrigan: It is no good asking supplementary questions if this kind of misinformation is going to be given by the minister.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—
REPAYMENT OF STUDENT LOANS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to direct this question either to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Labour. It concerns those who had student loans from universities and have not had a job in six months or have just become employed. Would the government be prepared to extend the time of repayment to one year or more so as to give the students a better opportunity to repay the loans? That is a practical suggestion.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question of student loans is administered by the Minister of Finance, and I am sure that if the suggestion is practical he will consider it.

Mr. Woolliams: Do you not think it is practical?

REDUCTION OF PERIOD IN LABOUR FORCE TO QUALIFY
FOR MANPOWER TRAINING AND ALLOWANCES

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration arising out of an answer he gave to the question asked by my leader. He said that the problem of reducing the number of years required before one can obtain an allowance as well as the right to training is under constant consideration. I should like to ask the minister whether, before we adjourn for the Christmas recess, he will make a statement to the House as to the result of that constant review and whether he will take steps immediately to change that regulation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I am not optimistic about being able to make any statement prior to the adjournment of the House. However, when a decision has been taken which would indicate any change then of course an announcement would be made.