

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister consider setting up a royal commission to study student dissension, to the end that, as a result of hearing the views of the students and staffs, a new sense of understanding will be established—something which apparently is getting more and more remote with the passing days?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I doubt very much, Mr. Speaker, whether we would be justified in setting up a royal commission to inquire into an area of provincial administration. Of course if the provinces were to indicate to us that the area got out of hand, was no longer a problem of education and asked us to intervene in that field, I would consider it; but not otherwise.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Might I suggest to the Prime Minister that this is a matter of national importance? The government pays many, many millions of dollars to the universities and this expenditure is increasing each year. It is for that reason, not the question of provincial jurisdiction, that I make the suggestion. It is a national challenge.

Mr. Trudeau: I realize, Mr. Speaker, that many questions of national importance are under provincial jurisdiction, by virtue of our constitution. It is not because we use the spending power that we are entitled to investigate, legislate or inquire into an area which is not under our jurisdiction.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS—
ENTRY OF EUROPEANS**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the very bleak and serious outlook for students wishing to secure jobs this summer, is it the intention of the minister and his department to continue the airlift of European students to Canada this summer?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I would like to have more detail on this, Mr. Speaker, before making a definitive answer. There is an exchange of students between Canada and other countries. The Canadian students also benefit from this exchange.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I did not have in mind the exchange. It was a straight direct airlift to Canada. Would the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

minister ensure every opportunity is given to Canadian students before such airlifts take place?

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. The question has been raised regarding summer employment for students. Would the minister be willing to make a statement on motions within the next few days with regard to what he is doing to eliminate the possible unemployment situation for students in the summertime?

Mr. MacEachen: I am sure the hon. member will have noticed in the past period that we have been undertaking a very extensive publicity campaign to acquaint employers with the needs which will occur this summer, and to encourage them to employ students where possible. We have increased our expenditures on this program. I wish to assure my hon. friend that if there are any other steps which can be taken, I will announce them to the house as soon as possible.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I would ask the minister whether his department has investigated the problem, or whether he has informed himself of its dimensions and as to the number of students who will be seeking employment and who, in view of the situation experienced last summer, will likely have difficulty in finding employment. Has the minister informed himself as to the size of the problem which exists, and can he inform the house as to the gaps that seem to exist between the number of students who will be seeking summer employment and the number who would hope to find employment under the conditions he anticipates?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I can assure my hon. friend the whole question of student employment has been under consideration and study, not only within the department but interdepartmentally. It is a serious problem for various reasons well known to my friend. The exact size of the problem is not absolutely clear, except we do know it is a major one. We are exploring every possible method to supply jobs. It will depend to a great extent upon the willingness of employers and others to consider this as a serious problem, and to assist students this summer in finding employment.