

Oral Questions

through job placement agencies, my department and many others. I might say, as members opposite and members in this party have mentioned, there are many jobs available right now for students. We have some 4,200 people on our list seeking jobs. We have jobs in southern Ontario amongst the food processors and agricultural employers who would be glad to get help. We face some difficulties in that when some people find out what kinds of jobs they are, they do not show all the enthusiasm for them we would otherwise expect to see. This creates some difficulty in placing them and matching applicants to jobs available.

* * *

SPORTS

MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—ALLEGED PREPARATIONS OF MINT FOR PRODUCING COMMEMORATIVE COINS—MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Supply and Services. Is the minister aware the Royal Canadian Mint commenced making preparations for the minting of Olympic coins as far back as last March and, in particular, two Olympic coin designs have been chosen and engravers have been working on the dies? If he was aware of the Mint's action, will he inform the House whether this action was taken on his instructions or did the Mint take these steps without authority bearing in mind that the 1976—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might allow the minister to reply to the question. He is now about to make an argument in support of his question and that is not in order.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will surely agree with me that the administration can do the planning. Now, with regard to the Royal Canadian Mint and the actual design of the coins, I do not believe any final decision will be made before normal consultation and final authorization has been granted.

[English]

Mr. Stevens: Bearing in mind what the minister has told the House, will he now state if he is aware that two heavy coin presses, suitable for handling the proposed Olympic coin sizes, which were originally ordered for the Winnipeg Mint, are now ready but have been diverted to Ottawa from Winnipeg so that the Mint may be in a position to commence minting the Olympic coins without delay. Was this change in plans on the minister's instructions or did the Mint take this action without his authority?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I do not know but I shall certainly inquire.

[English]

[Later:]

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Supply and Services. Did I understand the minister to say that the

[Mr. Andras.]

officials of the Mint have the authority to proceed with the preparation of Olympic coins prior to approval being given by this parliament to the minting of those coins? Is that the position of the government?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, it is quite sure that if Parliament rejects the government proposal nothing will be done. However, it is also sure that if Parliament authorizes the government to proceed, we could normally do so with the greatest possible haste and we are now working with that in mind.

* * *

[English]

HOUSING

STUDENT CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY IN TENDERING—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of State for Urban Affairs or the parliamentary secretary. Two weeks ago I asked the minister about certain charges in connection with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Can the acting minister or parliamentary secretary advise the House whether a report will in fact be made to the House by the minister or the government with regard to these very serious charges of corruption, collusion and fraud in connection with the tendering practices in construction of certain student co-operative housing projects?

Mr. Ian Watson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I understand from remarks by the minister in the House that an inquiry into this matter began toward the end of February. When that inquiry is complete, I presume the minister will make it available to members of the House.

Mr. Baldwin: In view of the fact five months have elapsed since this mythical inquiry was instituted, will the minister or the government now indicate if they are satisfied that no meaningful inquiry is being made and refer this matter to the Auditor General for a thorough and complete study under Sections 62 and 63 of the Financial Administration Act?

Mr. Watson: To repeat my earlier answer, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that an inquiry was started in February and when the finding is complete, it will be made available to members.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AID TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT—POSITION OF CANADA AT MEETING OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the drought in Africa and the steps being taken to assist