

*Inquiries of the Ministry***MANPOWER****PLANS FOR PROVISION OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT
FOR STUDENTS**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): This is a question for the Acting Prime Minister because it also involves one or two other ministers. In view of the great concern, particularly among university students, as to future summer employment, will the Acting Prime Minister undertake to tell us at the earliest opportunity, or have one of his colleagues do so, exactly what type of plan the government has in mind to assist these students?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The subject is under consideration in cabinet and just as soon as decisions are reached they will be announced, because it will be our purpose to promote the employment of students not only in industry but in government as well this summer.

**STUDENT LOANS—INCREASE IN AMOUNT, EXTENSION OF
REPAYMENT FAILING SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the fact that last summer many students failed to find employment for part or all of the summer, and as this situation may occur again this summer, has the Minister of Finance worked out any plan with his provincial counterparts to stretch out the period of repayment of student loans and to increase the amount of the loans available to students who are unable to find employment this summer?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): First of all, with respect to payments, Mr. Speaker, these can be stretched out through the banks at the request of the individual.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What if the banks won't?

Mr. Benson: If the banks will not do so, there is a procedure for requesting it through the provincial governments and we follow up the provincial governments in this regard. With respect to the size of loans, we have annual meetings on the students loan plan at which the provinces put forward their views on the level of loans, as do we, and the matter is decided then.

FORECASTS OF STUDENT UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1971

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I raised the question of unemployment projections among students with the Prime Minister who asked me to redirect it to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. May I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether the department has made any projections of the expected level of unemployment among students in 1971, and would he be prepared to make available to the House estimates indicating the extent of such unemployment to allow us some basis for making recommendations?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there are any reliable methods to distinguish a certain group of unemployed people statistically at a certain period in the future. I think it is possible to put together certain conclusions about the previous year and the current year, the size of the student body, economic conditions, and to draw some conclusions, but I would think that the hon. member would be able to do that by himself.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned whether the minister is capable of doing it. May I ask the minister if his officials have put together all of these complications and calculations and whether he would be prepared to make the results available to the House and the public to enable us to estimate the extent of unemployment among students, which he has predicted this year will increase over 1970?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question and I do presume that the hon. member can draw the same logical conclusions that I have.

NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AS SEEKING WORK

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. A week ago today I asked him to give the House some information as to how many persons in Canada seeking work had registered with the manpower department. I wonder whether the minister could give the House this information now.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I did have the figures before me. I believe at the end of December the number of people who were in the columns of the manpower offices as being unemployed and seeking work totalled 641,000. However, an examination of the figures over the month leads members to be cautious in their use of such figures. There are periods when unemployment is actually lower but these figures may be higher because they exclude some people who are unemployed and not registered and include people who may have found employment but not made that known to the office. These are some of the difficulties created by the figures.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. In view of the wide discrepancy between the figures given by the Department of Manpower, the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the survey made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, is there any liaison among these three agencies of government so as to reach a reasonably accurate and reliable figure on the number of persons unemployed at a given time?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker, of course there is, and it is the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' figure which is recognized as the best guide to the number of people unemployed at the time in question. The other figures which are available, whether of the number of people on unemployment insurance or of the number of people registered with manpower in one column or another, may