

*Oral Questions***MANPOWER**

## ADEQUACY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As we have heard, the government has backed off the idea of bringing in a budget. Also, it has not brought in any measures of an economic nature to stimulate employment opportunities, especially for young people, other than those announced earlier this month for which smaller amounts were allocated than last year.

In view of the fact that the hard figures for February, unadjusted—perhaps we could even adjust those—show there has been an increase in youth unemployment to 449,000, or just under 50 per cent of the total unemployment—which makes it 16.6 per cent—does the minister feel that the programs he has already announced are adequate, in view of the fact that smaller amounts are allocated to them this year than was the case last year? Does the minister propose to bring in new programs to alleviate youth unemployment now; and the situation will get even worse when students come out of university in May and June?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** The hon. member speaks of programs other than those we have already in place. I suggest to him that, for example, under the Canada Works Program 40 per cent of the participants in the program are youths. Similarly, because I wanted to make a concerted attack on this problem I sought the advice of the National Youth Advisory Group and asked them to look at all the programs we have in place to see if we can make better or more effective use of the funding we have at present, or to suggest to us new programs which might be put in place to meet this need. That is why I am particularly impressed with the job experience training program which has resulted in an increase from 1,000 to 14,000 young people participating. It is a good program. So is the developmental use of UI funds on work-sharing in particular because it affects, in most instances, younger members of the work force.

All these programs are in place and are directed to the very severe problem of youth unemployment. We have concerns in that area, but the people who pay the tab know they are getting value for their money when we put that money out.

**Mr. Dick:** I always appreciate the fact that the minister recites, every time, programs which have been put in place, in some cases three or four years ago. Since youth unemployment has increased steadily from 9 per cent to 15.5 per cent, it seems that we need something new, that we need a new approach. Can the minister tell the House whether the youth advisory group which he set up early in February, and from which he said he is eagerly awaiting a report, has met? If it has, will he table the recommendations they have made?

**Mr. Cullen:** The reason I repeat the programs that have been put in place is that every time the hon. member speaks, he chooses to ignore these programs and the amount of money—

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

**Mr. Dick:** I know the programs are there, but they are not working.

**Mr. Cullen:** If hon. members on the other side have nothing, they do a lot of shouting, which at least attracts attention. We have a series of programs. I do not hesitate to recite them each time I am asked a question about youth unemployment, because we are working in that area.

The National Youth Advisory Group has met, not once but twice. I suggested this because I want to get direct advice from them and I want it to be as informal as possible; I do not want it to be too structured. We had representatives from the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, from chambers of commerce and from young people themselves. It is an excellent idea. They want to study the programs that are in place and what funding might be made available, to give me an intelligent response to the questions I have put to them.

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**IMMIGRATION**

## GOVERNMENT POLICY ON VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CUBAN VISITORS

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Some 13 months ago, in answer to a question in the House, he advised us that he was reviewing the visa status requirements for Cuban visitors to determine if they should continue to receive exemption status under the non-immigrant visa requirements. Can the minister inform the House of the government's policy at this time, after some 13 months of deliberations?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I want to look into that specific area because it does not involve solely the Cuban situation. We were looking at visas with respect to four or five other countries, and I would have to work out that kind of determination in concert with my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I will check that out for the hon. member and report back to him.

**Mr. Huntington:** As these deliberations continue, I wonder if the minister can assure the House that the Cuban non-immigrant visitors to this country are all friendly and are not engaged in acts which could be interpreted as unfriendly to our form of government?

**Mr. Cullen:** I am not even sure that everybody who comes from British Columbia is friendly to this government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cullen:** In any event, in view of this government's generosity of spirit, we are ready to assume that they are friendly, rather than to accept the opposite suggestion, which is what the hon. member seems to have in mind.