

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I am sure he is aware that during February—

An Hon. Member: Shut up, you yahoos.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: Tell him. He will have a question of privilege.

Mr. Fulton: That is right. I am sure the Minister does have a question of privilege regarding that last comment.

I am sure the Minister is aware that during February there were 212,000 unemployed in British Columbia, 74,000 are between the ages of 15 and 24. I am sure the Minister is also aware that over the next 10 weeks over 100,000 will be hitting the job market in British Columbia.

My question to the Minister results from a weekend survey done by *The Vancouver Sun* which reveals that B.C.'s ten largest corporations will only hire a couple of hundred students, and B.C.'s largest corporation, MacMillan Bloedel, only plans to hire six summer students. Since Statistics Canada has revealed that already unemployment among young people in B.C. is over 25 per cent, would the Minister tell us what new measures he plans to take during the coming weeks and months to put some of those people back to work in British Columbia?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first, if my colleague, the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources, keeps on making such extraordinary statements I will have to think seriously about whether or not I will put him in the next Cabinet.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roberts: I think the hon. gentleman—and I thank him for his question—knows that my colleague, the Minister of Finance, at the time of his Budget indicated that there would be an increase in funding for employment for young people of something like \$150 million. The Cabinet has under very active consideration how to use that money, perhaps for some new programs, or in relation to a variety of existing programs, which will help respond to the problem that he has cited for us.

Oral Questions

● (1450)

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure if the Minister continues to wear that tie he will get a job on *Saturday Night Live*.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ADVICE TO YOUNG UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): It is now estimated in British Columbia that there will be close to 200,000 young people unemployed and on the street by the middle of the summer. Since big business will not hire them, the *Vancouver Sun* has learned, and since the Canadian Federation of Independent Business in a recent survey learned that 73 per cent of small businesses in British Columbia will not hire young people this summer, and since the Minister's entire program in British Columbia will only create 11,900 jobs, what is the Minister telling this House, and young British Columbians, they should do? That is 188,000 young people who will be out of work this summer. What should they do?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe the short answer to the question of the Hon. Member is that they should look very seriously at using the programs of Summer Canada. Its funding has again been increased this year, and may very well be increased once again before the summer months arrive. They should also use the services of the Canada Employment Centres, which are active in British Columbia, in order to assist them in finding work.

All of us realize that the situation is going to be difficult. However, as I hope the Hon. Member recognizes, the Government has already taken considerable steps in terms of funding, something like \$1.3 billion of funding this year, in order to create jobs for young people and help them with training, and to provide services which bring young people into contact with jobs. The most important advice I can give to the Hon. Member to pass on to his young constituents is for them make active use of our employment facilities.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR CONTROL OF TEXTILE IMPORTS

Mr. Arthur Portelance (Gamelin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade.

On July 21, 1983, the Minister announced that the Government would take several initiatives to assist Canadian clothing manufacturers who were concerned about the increase in clothing imports. In the same press release, the Minister pointed out that he would be using bilateral agreements with the main suppliers on the subject of proper marketing practice. However, although the press bulletin and policy were well-intentioned, the House is aware that after the first two months