

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Immigration. In view of the large number of applications being received, will the minister undertake to make a statement in the House as to what criteria are being used in accepting or rejecting applications? Apparently this is not understood by many people.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I shall bring this suggestion to the attention of my colleague, the Secretary of State.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Can the minister indicate whether or not the Opportunities for Youth program is part of a long-range policy for young people, part of an ongoing policy that will be continued in future years?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—ORGANIZATIONS THAT QUALIFY FOR GRANTS

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Can the minister state whether groups or clubs such as service clubs, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and others who sponsor youth employment programs for the summer will qualify for these grants which are directly available to the students according to the program?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would refer the hon. member to the information put out by the Secretary of State's office in this regard.

**An hon. Member:** Don't you know?

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** A brief supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give some assurance to the students who require financial assistance for the coming academic year that financial concerns, not political concerns, will be the criteria?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—APPLICATION CUT-OFF DATE

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that there seems to be some confusion as to the cut-off date for applications—I have heard it is ending tomorrow and I have also heard April 15—is the minister in a position to advise the House and the people of Canada, particularly those interested in the program, just when the cut-off date is? If it is in the very near future, is the minister giving serious consideration to prolonging the time set for applications in order that we can get the benefit of the money supplied by the government?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** There has indeed been some confusion about application date deadlines, Mr. Speaker, apparently because there are a number of programs with different deadlines. The program for employment overseas, for instance, which is a very special program and has existed for a number of years, has a March 31 deadline date. I believe the Secretary of State made it quite clear in the House and outside that April 15 was the date he was suggesting for the Opportunities for Youth program.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West on a supplementary question.

[Mr. Nystrom.]

However, I wonder if we might not go on to another subject and if there is time, return to this very important matter later during the question period.

**Mr. Alexander:** Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker. The minister says that his colleague has suggested that the cut-off date is to be April 15. In order to clarify this matter and in view of the fact that many students are registering complaints about the short notice involved, would the minister take this matter up with his colleague and ascertain if there is any possibility of extending the time so that youth can take advantage of the scheme properly?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I shall bring this representation to the attention of my colleague, but the hon. member should not overlook the importance of these applications coming in early. The Opportunities for Youth program is obviously so popular that those that come in early may be given the greatest amount of consideration.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AMCHITKA UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS—REPLY TO CANADIAN PROTEST—PROPOSED WEST COAST OIL TANKER ROUTE

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he is now in a position to advise the House of the outcome of this government's protest of February, 1970, regarding the Amchitka nuclear test explosion?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when this question was originally asked I said that I would inquire from the United States government whether they would have any objection to my tabling the substance of their reply. The United States government has now agreed. Therefore may I first table the substance of the note we presented to the United States government and then give a short summary of their reply?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the minister that this kind of statement ought normally to be made on motions, unless the minister can make the statement brief so that it will actually take the form of a reply to the question.

**Mr. Sharp:** I should like to table the substance of the note we submitted to the United States government.

The United States government delivered a reply to our ambassador in Washington on March 17 indicating their appreciation of the Canadian government's concern over any effects of the tests on the environment. They also gave assurances that the environmental and other interests expressed by the Canadian government would be taken into full account and that they would give, in the thorough review of any proposed test on Amchitka, full and careful consideration to the possible impact of such a test on the physical environment.