

ment precisely to discuss with them the latter's projects, which could not have been revealed at the time the conference was held, as the federal-provincial consultations were still in progress. I am sure the hon. member cannot feel that, in a field such as young people's activities and student employment, we can neglect the position of the provinces which is an aspect of paramount importance in such an area.

[English]

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Since the Secretary of State has indicated the government had no plans and therefore could not discuss them at this important meeting, did the government give consideration to the possibility of asking for a further delay or of indicating in any way its reasons for not participating in this conference, apart from the reason advanced by the minister that there had not been direct federal-provincial consultation, because it is the understanding, I think, that all provinces had expressed an interest in participating in this conference?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I have never said that the government did not have any plans. I said the government's projects were ready; the Acting Prime Minister said so last Thursday; he gave general indications to the effect that the program was bigger and better, I believe. It will be better organized and more efficient than last year's. But what I said, and repeat here, is that considerations of time, that is the need to consult the provinces, have kept us from meeting the first date set for the conference, and in another connection, that the possibilities of consultation offered by that conference did not involve provincial governments but the delegates of private organizations, which would certainly not have been useless. But that is not the type of consultations we seek. The delay in announcing a policy is due to the necessity of holding consultations with the provincial authorities.

[English]

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS—  
CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State or the Acting Prime Minister when the federal government first started to consult the provinces about a specific program relating to students this summer?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that I can give an answer and if my memory serves me well, the first discussions go back to the middle of February, or rather to the beginning of February.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are three members waiting to ask supplementaries. I realize that the matter is important, but to some extent it seems to me the discussion is theoretical since we are dealing with a conference which I gather will not take place. Perhaps hon. members might like to go on to another subject. However, I know the matter is important and I believe the hon. member for Egmont has a supplementary.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. May I say on the point of order before putting my supplementary that the importance of this question right now is that it raises basic questions about the possibility for citizen participation in a problem of tremendous importance—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That is not a point of order, and I did not raise a point of order. I just indicated that we should not have too many supplementaries on this subject. I always try to bring this to the attention of hon. members at the beginning of the question period because there is a temptation to spend too much time on the first question and then we could fall behind in our schedule. That is merely what I wanted to bring to the attention of hon. members but not by way of a point of order.

CANCELLATION OF CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY CANADIAN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, would the Secretary of State indicate whether in the planning stages of this important conference the federal government did indicate that it would not likely participate in or support the conference in order that some kind of alternative plan could be made, rather than wait until almost the last moment to scuttle the conference?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the responsible authorities in the department are studying with the Canadian Council on Social Development other projects in order to establish if the objectives of this conference could be promoted by different means in the near future.

[English]

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether or not he can give us some assurance that some type of conference will be held so that young people will be able to express their opinions and points of view?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** This is exactly what I have just said, Mr. Speaker. My department is trying to make this kind of discussion possible, even after the failure of the conference.

[English]

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS—  
PLACE OF APPLICATION

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Can he inform the House at this time where students can apply to participate in the program the government is proposing for summer employment?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I take it the question was serious and I wish to make the same kind of answer. We have asked them to register with Manpower.