

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No, Sir. We will make an announcement in the House as soon as feasible.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of what I understood was the assurance given by the minister that a proposal would be put before the House in such a manner that it could be discussed, is the minister prepared to give the House an assurance that this matter will not be introduced and a conclusion forced upon the House before the expiry date of the Turner act on April 30?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): My assurance was given and it stands. As for the date of April 30, the hon. gentleman will have to wait and see.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister why he cannot tell the House, or rather when he will tell the House, what action the government proposes to take and not simply stall and procrastinate on this important matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is hardly a supplementary question.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): My supplementary question is simple and straightforward, and I hope I will get the same kind of answer. Will the announcement the minister will be making be made before April 30 next?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I cannot be categorical about that.

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YOUTH**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—APPLICATION CRITERIA—EXPLANATION OF REFUSALS—INCREASE IN MONEY ALLOCATED**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister with regard to the student employment program about which he told the House some time ago. It arises out of a suspicion across the country about the criteria which have been used for the acceptance or refusal of proposals made to the Department of the Secretary of State. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he could take steps to make sure that those whose programs have been refused will receive a full explanation of the reasons for refusal and an elaborated idea of the criteria which are being used in judging these proposals?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the rumours on which the question is based are obviously wrong, because no program has either been accepted or refused as of this date. Obviously, in view of the figures which were given by the Secretary of State, we will have to refuse some of the proposals, and reasons will be given why they are refused.

Mr. Lewis: I am glad to stand corrected, Mr. Speaker, but will the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State

[Mr. Stanfield.]

assure the House that proposals which are made will be dealt with a great deal more rapidly, and that machinery for discussing the proposals will be made available to the people who have ideas instead of making them wait for weeks before they even receive an acknowledgement?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I can promise that, Mr. Speaker. That is at present the main goal we have in mind in the Secretary of State's Department for administration of the program.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Although I have not had any time to look through all of *Hansard* in the last few weeks, as the minister will understand, I did look quickly through the statement he made last Thursday in which he pointed out that a large amount of money would be involved if he accepted all the programs, which seemed to me to be not very relevant. May I ask the Secretary of State—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member asking a supplementary question?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Secretary of State whether the government is considering increasing the amount of money made available for the Opportunities for Youth program?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the government is considering the matter.

[English]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECTS

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): My question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that there may be considerable delay, because of the number of applications under the Opportunities for Youth program, has the Secretary of State or the government considered extending the deadline for the completion of projects, since obviously some of them will not be starting as early as anticipated?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): That is a problem we have not faced yet, Mr. Speaker. After selection of projects and assessment of the time required for their implementation, we will get around to such considerations. I feel they are now premature. There are other more urgent problems.

[English]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Some members on this side may have misunderstood the Prime Minister, so perhaps he might wish to clarify one of his