

Oral Questions

[Translation]

MANPOWER

INQUIRY WHETHER CANADA WORKS, PHASE III, PROJECTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I shall not speak of immigration but of employment today.

Under the Young Canada Works program, the projects that were accepted for subsidizing have been by far fewer than the applications made by sponsors of various projects. Still, I want to thank the minister for the funds granted my riding and other ridings in the province of Quebec. I should like to put the following question: We are now in the process of discussing various projects with their sponsors who are getting ready to apply for grants under Phase III of the Canada Works program. Can the minister tell the House whether we should encourage people in the same way to submit their projects under this program, seeing we have no idea of what funds have been earmarked for the program? Should we, yes or no, encourage people to plan projects and can the minister tell the House whether the amount of funds to be allotted to this project has yet been decided and whether it will be more generous than the funds allotted to the Young Canada Works program?

[English]

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the global funding has in fact been announced. It is a question of determining the amount that will go to each individual constituency. We hope within the next couple of weeks to be in a position to announce the funding available on a constituency by constituency basis. I hope the hon. member will again encourage people to participate in the Canada Works and Young Canada Works programs because they have been excellent programs. We need about a three or four to one ratio to get excellent projects, which we have had in the past from the hon. member's constituency and from others.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Considering that the present situation is very serious and even very grave; that the private sector is not in a position to offer enough jobs to satisfy current needs; that Canada Manpower Centres respond in a very strange way to those seeking help to find employment, and that jobs are very scarce, would the minister be willing, in view of these special and grave circumstances, to ask the President of the Treasury Board for additional funds so that we might make better and more efficient use of Canadian manpower and thus ensure normal

development in our country by using our qualified manpower until the private sector is in a position to do more?

● (1427)

[English]

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have reiterated time and time again that something like \$1.2 billion has been made available by the federal government for direct job creation and training, and all these enterprises have been most satisfactory. Still on the subject of funding, we have spent about \$96.2 million on programs to assist young people and students to find employment—the highest amount ever contributed by any government in this field.

Manpower centres have been giving good advice in the placing of individuals. Last year we placed something like 250,000 young people in employment during the summer months. So we must be doing something right. We hope to do even better this year. We should remember, too, that 300,000 more people are working this year than were working last year.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

PEACE TALKS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. When I asked the minister on April 18 whether he agreed that any commitment of Canadian troops to a UN peacekeeping force ought to be conditional on the prospect of a political settlement or, at least, a reasonable expectation of one, he replied that the parties in the Lebanon area were, and I quote, "moving toward such an agreement and understanding". Unfortunately for his forecasting, the very next day the government of Lebanon fell and their prime minister resigned. Will the minister now tell us categorically what evidence he has that any of the parties in South Lebanon are moving toward agreement and understanding?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): We were hoping for greater control in that area, as I indicated in reply to the hon. member's question. Obviously, there is need for greater control. The Secretary General has asked for more troops in the area, and we are still working toward stability.

Mr. McKinnon: I would like the minister to confirm, as the man primarily responsible for sending our troops to Southern Lebanon, whether it is true that UN forces are presently engaged in hostilities with one of several organizations in the area, none of which seems to have the slightest intention of negotiating a settlement, though that is one of the main criteria to be met before Canadian troops become involved.

Will the minister press for a revised, tightened-up UN resolution which would be based on criteria set out by the hon. member for Eglinton on the basis of our long experience in peacekeeping?