

YOUTH

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF TASK FORCE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. He is on record as supporting and encouraging, in fact promoting, a task force on youth issues. When can we expect announcement of that task force?

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. It is indeed one of the options we are now considering. When I appeared before the Committee on Communications and Culture during the study of the estimates of the Secretary of State, I announced that I will get in touch with all youth organizations this summer with a view to presenting them with a series of proposals on a consultation mechanism through which they could air their views on a youth policy reflecting the interests of young people and of all Canadians concerning those priorities.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, the Minister is well aware that the serious unemployment situation among young people in Canada is at crisis proportions right now. All indications are that it is going to continue for a long period of time, and that puts a very serious sense of urgency on the problem. Will the Minister not proceed quickly, and then make available to all Members of this House the opportunity to discuss this issue with young people right across the country, rather than delaying for a period of time?

• (1430)

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, the concern of the Hon. Member has already been the object of a decision by our colleague the Minister of Employment and Immigration who has suggested that a national conference on young people and employment be held this summer in August. As a result of that conference we will be in a position to take decisions reflecting the initiatives which the Government of Canada intends to take to meet the needs of young people in Canada.

* * *

[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

SOVIET OFFER TO ESTABLISH BALTIC NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONE

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Secretary Andropov

Oral Questions

has made an offer to discuss making the Baltic a nuclear weapon-free zone if Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark declare their countries to be nuclear weapon-free zones.

In his role of elder statesman, could the Prime Minister inform the House what advice he might give to our NATO allies and President Palme with regard to this rather unbalanced offer?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, they have not asked for my advice, but if the Hon. Member really recognizes in me an elder statesman, I would be happy to discuss the matter with him.

Mr. McKinnon: The Prime Minister has given out a lot of advice in the last month or so without being asked for it, I believe.

SOVIET LEADER'S STATEMENT ON DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): I wonder if the Prime Minister would think about Mr. Andropov's recent threatening statement that, if the deployment of the Pershing IIs and Cruise missiles went on, he would retaliate by deploying nuclear weapons in the buffer states. I do not know whether Mr. Andropov expected NATO to believe that his short-range ballistic missiles were deployed far out of range of their targets or not, but could the Prime Minister tell the House what his advice to other NATO leaders is on that statement by Andropov? Should it be ignored, or should it be accepted as a basis for negotiations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that we have an example here of the Tory Party desperately struggling for information on a policy. Its Members should be discussing this matter. They have a leadership convention going on. They should know what their position is on this matter.

Mr. Nielsen: Write another letter to the newspapers.

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member suggests that I have given a lot of advice for which I have not been asked. That is not true. If Mr. Palme wants to have my advice on this matter, he will pick up a phone and he will talk to me, as he frequently does. He has not asked my advice on this matter. The Hon. Member should be asking advice of people within his Party who are expected to lead it in some way or another.

Mr. Nielsen: Write another letter to the *Toronto Star*.

Miss MacDonald: I thought we were still in NATO.