

In view of the fact that over 44,000 CEGEP graduates will be without work when they finish their courses, according to Quebec Labour Department statistics, that unemployment is still increasing in that province, according to a joint news release of the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and finally that 42 per cent of the unemployed in Quebec—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member may not make a speech. He must put a question. If he refers to the Standing Orders, he will see that he is given the floor at this time to put a question and not to enumerate a long list of facts. I therefore invite him to put his question as soon as possible.

Mr. Fortin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The more one waits, the more ideas come to his mind.

I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether, at this moment, the government is studying the particular problem of young unemployed graduates and whether it considers giving direct financial assistance to those young people until they find a job on the labour market?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member will recognize, after consideration, that this question was asked yesterday or very few days ago, but in any event, it has been asked and since the time of the House has been monopolized to a certain extent, the House might allow the right hon. Prime Minister to answer.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member knows that a few weeks ago, the government announced a series of new projects aimed at palliating the unemployment problem in the country. As I had the opportunity to mention it a few days ago, the government does not intend to discriminate between the young and the not so young who are unemployed. We intend to help them all. But since the hon. member particularly stated the case of graduating CEGEP students, it offers me perhaps an opportunity to remind them that the prosperity of the province will depend to a great extent on the possibility of attracting investments and that an atmosphere of violence which many among them advocate is not beneficial.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fortin: I should like to put a supplementary question.

Since the atmosphere of violence has partly been settled, thanks to the co-operation between the federal and provincial governments, and since the consequences of that crisis has been borne by both of them, have discussions been held to improve the climate and attract investments in Quebec in order to enable young people to find a place within the community and earn their living?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the answer must be given by the House which is considering a bill which, we hope, will be passed today with the co-operation of the opposition parties and this will specifically have an effect to attract investments in Quebec.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I suggested a moment ago that we might return to the question raised by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I am not sure whether the minister actually replied or attempted to reply.

* * *

URANIUM

POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHMENT PLANT—CANADIAN CONTROL

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I will repeat the question so that the minister will have an opportunity to answer. Having regard to the fact that the policy of the Canadian government has been understood to be that the control of the production and processing of uranium should stay strictly in Canadian hands, particularly under the control of the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, can the minister assure us that any uranium enrichment plant will be under Canadian control and that any foreign control will either be in a minority equity position or in the form of loan capital?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the government has no intention of changing the current rules whereby the export of uranium is subject to the authority and permission of the Atomic Energy Control Board, with the further safeguard of ratification by the government.

In so far as financing is concerned, I think it would be premature and hypothetical to determine how the financing of such a project might be undertaken. In my conversations with the Japanese, I stated that, whatever may be the rules regarding foreign investment in Canada, we would continue to welcome foreign investment on the basis of their investment to date, namely, by minority holdings in Canadian companies and with a preponderance of debt financing by foreign sources rather than equity financing.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I saw the minister's statement to that effect and I welcome it. I am now asking whether the statement with reference to foreign ownership being confined to either a minority position or loan capital will apply with regard to any uranium enrichment plant in Canada in so far as Japanese or other foreign investment is concerned?

Mr. Greene: I do not think that the government has made any decision in this regard. The matter of whether there will be a plant is still hypothetical. I think it would be premature to determine how we should finance it. In my statements to the Japanese in this regard, I was not stating government policy. I stated that, whatever government policy was with regard to foreign investment, and this will be announced shortly, foreign investment was required in Canada on the basis of a minority holding