

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**EDUCATION****FEDERAL GRANTS TO PROVINCES FOR POST-SECONDARY  
EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Right Hon. Prime Minister in the absence of the Secretary of State.

Last week, the Secretary of State announced that the federal government would maintain its financial assistance to post-secondary education and in conclusion he said this:

The federal share of post-secondary financing exceeds that of the provinces, but it is not sufficiently directed towards national objectives . . . and is hardly likely to underline the federal presence.

Can the Right Hon. Prime Minister explain to what extent his government is willing to invade this area of provincial jurisdiction?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I do not really understand the question asked by the hon. member, Madam Speaker. Since the mid-sixties, I think, the federal government has played a major role in financing post-secondary education in the provinces, and this because the provinces had been clamouring for very generous grants. In the past, the federal government has paid around 50 per cent of the costs of post-secondary education, and the rest was paid partly by the provinces and partly by the students themselves. If the hon. member approves this policy, as I believe he does, he should not wonder about the federal government's interest in educational problems, at least as concerns footing the bill. What the Secretary of State was saying in his reply was that it is not normal that in an area essentially under provincial jurisdiction, the federal government should pay not 50 per cent, but up to 60 per cent of financing while the provinces have reduced their own grants in the last few years for post-secondary education, which of course forces the students to pay more. What we suggest essentially in this regard is that if those provinces which claim jurisdiction in this field, as the hon. member was saying, can look after their own field of jurisdiction, they should be able to pay at least 50 per cent of the costs.

**Mr. Kilgour:** I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. I am of course talking about the Liberal notion of renewed federalism or, if you prefer, of Liberal imperialism. Is the Right Hon. Prime Minister willing to define the contents of post-secondary studies under the twelve objectives of his national colleagues?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, once again, the Progressive Conservative party should make up its mind! Do they want us to pay or not? I cannot understand the hon. member when he suggests that we are imperialists because we pay between 58 and 60 per cent of the costs.

● (1450)

[English]

**MANPOWER****ONTARIO WOMEN'S OUTREACH GROUPS—REQUEST FOR  
MEETING WITH MINISTER**

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the Manpower outreach programs, which are some of the better programs of his department. Ontario women's Outreach groups have requested a meeting with the minister eight times now because of their concern about the future of the Outreach programs. Will the minister tell us why he is afraid to meet with these women? Will he also tell us what his plans are for the future of the Manpower Outreach programs?

**Mr. Paproski:** He hates women.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member may be interested to know that meetings are planned with representatives of the Outreach groups next week.

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that those meetings are with his officials, and my question concerned the future of the Outreach programs, both for women and other important groups.

**SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, the stringent regulations which are being proposed by the minister's department and the plans for assimilating these services in Manpower offices is just another way of terminating these important programs. Will the minister give us his assurance that he will support the kinds of programs that have demonstrated a permanent need, such as the program for the ethnic workers in Chinatown, and will he make sure that these programs are continued as permanent services.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. member, she may be interested to know that one of the primary directions we have taken in the department is to provide specialized counselling services to special groups in the community. Just a month ago we established eight major counselling units for women in employment centres across Canada. This is a pilot project aimed at demonstrating how we can re-orient the full range of government services to concentrate on that very important need to help women gain entry into the work force. What we are doing is re-allocating our resources and targeting at the real needs. An Outreach program will play a very important role in that new orientation of our department.