

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to reaching needy young Canadians who, the task force said, are not being served by that program?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, unless I am mistaken, the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the statements made about the high rate of unemployment among young people of 18 to 25. This matter concerns primarily the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

[English]

**Mr. Stanfield:** I understand—

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You understand, but you are confused.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** This government would confuse anybody.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I am not confused, Mr. Speaker. I am really intimidated today by the hon. member for St. Boniface.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Understanding full well that responsibility for employment is not his, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he has any plans in his programs to reach the youths who, according to the task force, are not presently being reached. In particular, I would ask the Secretary of State whether he intends to build any criteria into the Opportunities for Youth program with a view to giving youths in this group some priority?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I believe I explained, in reply to other questions, our position, and the reasons why it had been adopted for the definition of criteria for the Opportunities for Youth program.

In order to reassure the Leader of the Opposition, I can tell him that, on a long-term basis, we are considering various ideas which will be brought forward in due course to reach those groups of young people who are not covered by the Opportunities for Youth program.

[English]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—SUGGESTED  
APPROVAL OF GREATER NUMBER OF PRACTICAL  
PROJECTS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Bearing in mind the preliminary report on projects approved under this year's Opportunities for Youth program, which shows a very high percentage of projects consisting of surveys and undertakings such as videotaping, would the minister, when he looks at the criteria, give consideration to approving more useful and practical projects than the kind which have been authorized up till now?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, it will soon be revealed, when the list is completed, that the hon. member's information is inaccurate. He will have to wait; projects of the type he has described represent quite a small percentage.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

I have already stated, and the total list of projects selected will bear this out, that program analysts have selected more projects than ever which take place in rural areas and in the less prosperous districts of big cities.

• (1440)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST THAT  
REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF PROJECTS BE GIVEN

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Could he tell us for what motives those responsible for the Opportunities for Youth Program will not divulge in a frank and honest way to the promoters the reasons why their projects were rejected?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, it is simply because there are 16,000 notices of refusal to be sent out. These notices must be sent out as soon as possible to the interested parties so that they may look for work elsewhere instead of depending on the Opportunities for Youth program. Writing 16,000 individual letters, each one indicating the particular reasons for each project, would be an impossible task to accomplish in a reasonable period of time. We are now advising all those who are asking for details that, with a little patience, they will in time be informed.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. There are five six, seven or more supplementaries sought on this subject. We will soon have to move on to the next subject, but for the moment we will have perhaps two or three further supplementaries.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, does the Secretary of State mean that in the case of the projects which are flatly rejected, the young people should give up all hope concerning the Opportunities for Youth program, because they will not know why their projects are rejected and will be unable to submit improved projects?

**Mr. Pelletier:** If the hon. member tried to understand, Mr. Speaker, he would have already realized that they will eventually be given, if they wish so, the detailed reasons. However, the young people let us know last year that it was useful if not essential for them to learn promptly of their rejection, in order not to entertain false hopes and to look for jobs elsewhere, when there are still some available.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I remind the hon. member for Lotbinière that we must try to move a little faster. We have already spent more than ten minutes on this subject, and we should make some progress. I shall allow a last supplementary question by the hon. member for Lotbinière, and then I shall recognize the hon. member for Charlevoix in order that he may put a question on the same subject.

**Mr. Fortin:** Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, could the Secretary of State assure us that, a little later, all the young people who have been turned down will receive a letter of explanation.