

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, last March 16, the right hon. Prime Minister invited our young people to participate actively in the Opportunities for Youth program.

On April 22, the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) cited some statistics and pointed out, for instance, that his department had received 2,485 projects and that he was not surprised because the young were enthused over the opportunity of working towards building the country.

Today, the Secretary of State announced in the House that he had received over 13,000 projects from students and that of this number, only 600 had been approved so far. He announced also that the total budget of the program would be increased by \$10 million.

No matter what members opposite might want to say, I would like to remind them that after the announcement made by the Secretary of State which has been reported on page 5150, I strongly urged the government to increase the program's budget, so as not to augment further the feeling of frustration of Canadian students.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the ambivalence of the problem confronting the young students of Canada, namely to complete their studies while trying to avoid as much as possible running into debts. It is a well known fact that the scholarship and loan system contributes directly to get them into debt and to delay their start in life and the benefits that their knowledge and skills can bring to society. When they get out of school, students are up to here in debt and receive no government help to continue their education while governments claim credit for making education free.

Moreover, young people are impatient to participate in building their country in projects where their personal initiative is emphasized, where development, environment beautification, recreation, pollution control are involved. These are problems that are of deep concern to young Canadians and their response to the Opportunities for Youth program—more than 13,000 projects probably involving thousands of students—shows the number of students who are in debt and neglected by governments and also their interest not so much in dissent—since they know that in any case the government will not give them a hearing—as in building up their country.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to express somewhat qualified praise of the Secretary of State for the budget and for the number of projects presented by students which have been approved. Ten million dollars are certainly better than the total of \$14.7 million originally allotted for the whole program, but that certainly is still inadequate.

Therefore, I want to renew my pleading with the government and particularly the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State to review their positions and further increase the budget in order that the Opportunities for Youth program should not bring about increased frustration among students who, believe it or not are really people to build up our country.

Inquiries of the Ministry

• (2:20 p.m.)

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING—NEW MEASURES TO CONTROL INFLATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Now that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has announced an increase in the cost of living for the first four months of this year amounting to 1.8 per cent, or an annual rate of some 5½ per cent, is it the position of the government that, as the right hon. gentleman indicated last December, inflation has been licked by the policies of this administration, or does the government intend to announce new measures to control the increase in the cost of living?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it has never been the position of the government that inflation is something you can lick once and for all.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I am happy to hear that the opposition thinks it is. I am happy to see that now they are proposing we should shift our economic policies toward combating inflation rather than unemployment.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, that was surely the shortest licking in history.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Now that the Prime Minister has admitted elsewhere that unemployment was created by the government to fight inflation, I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he intends to fight the bout of inflation indicated by this increase in the cost of living by creating more unemployment?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Now that the Prime Minister has said that inflation with high employment is not an acceptable alternative to no inflation with high unemployment, I should like to ask the government whether it is quite satisfied to have both high unemployment and a high rate of inflation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Waterloo on a supplementary.

Mr. Saltsman: I have another question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yukon on a supplementary.