

Economic Growth and Employment Situation

dren in their area; a proposal from a group of students studying television production at a community college for a series of media workshops which will involve up to 25 additional people in each workshop; a proposal from a group of archeology students to carry out a number of archeological digs, with support and supervision of an archeological society. Also included are proposals by national voluntary agencies for projects of water safety, recreational programs, mental health services and special research projects associated with universities.

As hon. members can see, voluntary organizations in Canada have not waited, and did not feel they had to wait for announcements by the government. Their initiative has been reflected in proposals already received by a number of departments. These proposals are under consideration and within the past two days some 500 further inquiries about the program have been received by the Department of the Secretary of State.

I hope that hon. members, to whom the Opportunities for Youth documentation is being sent, will encourage this kind of voluntary action. I hope that the word will go forth from this House and from other centres of government within Canada to all citizens, to voluntary organizations and to young people in particular, so that they will respond to this challenge and join in the partnership of imagination, energy and achievement that the government hopes to develop with them. It is a challenge to citizen activism of the most constructive kind, the kind that builds nations and strengthens democracy.

● (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: Would the minister indicate who will decide what projects will be proceeded with? He indicated that this is a matter of students evaluating their own projects.

Mr. Stanbury: A secretariat has been established in the Department of the Secretary of State which, with the advice of an interdepartmental committee, will analyse proposals and process them as rapidly as possible in consultation with provincial and municipal authorities.

Mr. Stanfield: May I ask who will make the decisions?

Mr. Stanbury: The decisions will be made by the interdepartmental committee as projects are analysed. That process is already in the course of action.

Mr. Douglas: Could the minister tell us the personnel of the interdepartmental committee and whether or not any applications have been submitted to it?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that there have been 100 or so applications or project proposals received. As a matter of fact, the development of the program arises partly out of the expressed interest of the voluntary organizations in devising and carrying out programs themselves. The interdepartmental committee has representation from the most directly concerned departments. The secretariat of the Department of the Secretary of State also has seconded to it members from other departments.

[Mr. Stanbury.]

Mr. Douglas: If the minister does not have the names of the persons on the committee, can he say what departments will be represented? I understand there would be the Department of the Secretary of State, Treasury Board and Citizenship. Can he give us some idea what groups will be represented, if possible the names of the persons who will be on the committee, and tell us whether any of the projects have yet been approved by the committee?

Mr. Stanbury: No projects have yet been approved, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give the hon. member the names of the individuals on the interdepartmental committee, but certainly the departments most directly concerned would include the Department of the Secretary of State, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Department of Manpower and Immigration and Treasury Board.

Mr. Douglas: Who will be the chairman?

Mr. Stanbury: I cannot give the hon. member the name of the chairman but I would be glad to discuss that with him later.

Mr. Stanfield: Could the minister indicate whether or not the interdepartmental committee has yet been established, and when will we receive the criteria governing the Opportunities for Youth Program? Can we receive these today?

Mr. Stanbury: I hope so, Mr. Speaker. The application forms and a memorandum with those forms have gone out to each of some 5,000 voluntary organizations that might be interested in making proposals, and to regional offices of the government. I have asked that similar documentation go to Members of Parliament and I hope this is available to the Leader of the Opposition immediately.

Mr. Stanfield: Has the committee been established?

Mr. Stanbury: Yes, the committee has been established.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The Chair notices that the hon. member for Yorton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) and the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) have questions and I will recognize them. I think in view of the fact that the minister is the chief government spokesman, it would be in order to do so. I might mention that we are using the minister's time, because the time allotted to him under the special order made earlier today has not yet expired. It will expire in about three minutes and after that I would not want to recognize any more members on questions.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not mention anything about youth hostels. Could he enlighten us on what plans the government has and whether or not it is consulting municipalities on the use of high school auditoriums?

Mr. Stanbury: I did mention that we were prepared to support local initiative in this field.

Mr. Douglas: No armouries?