

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question the answer is, not immediately. On the second part of the question the answer is that such consultations have taken place at times.

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#### MANPOWER

##### ALLEGED GREATER DIFFICULTY FOR FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO GET SUMMER JOBS

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. A survey of 20,000 students conducted by the minister's own department at 64 universities and colleges revealed that women post-secondary school students seeking summer work not only had a tougher time getting jobs but were paid substantially less. Will the minister undertake to make a special effort to see that this inequity does not continue this summer?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, to the degree it is within my power I certainly would join the hon. member in endorsing equal treatment for women as for men. I know my colleague, the Minister of Labour, who reports to parliament on the government's actions with regard to the status of women, feels exactly the same way. I think we are doing everything in the federal domain that we can to that end.

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[Translation]

#### FINANCE

##### INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES—MEASURES TO CURB INFLATION

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Finance.

In view of the increase in interest rates of the Bank of Canada and two chartered banks, could the minister state whether the government intends to take other action to curb the inflation due to the causes we are aware of, and what action will it take to completely do away with inflation?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have already revealed some of the means the government is considering in the budget speech of February 19.

[English]

##### SUGGESTED STUDY OF MODIFICATION OF BRANCH BANKING SYSTEM TO EASE BURDEN OF HIGH INTEREST RATES ON SLOW GROWTH AREAS

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Will the minister consider instituting a study of modifications of the branch banking system designed to ease the burden of universal high interest rates on areas of slow economic growth.

#### Oral Questions

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the governor of the bank and I when we were in communication with the banks as a result of the rise in the bank rate made it clear to them that we expected that in their loan policy they would give special attention to small Canadian-owned businesses and to businesses in slower growth areas of the country. I noticed with a good deal of satisfaction that the banks in announcing the increase in the prime rate made those observations and will accord those priorities.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's request that the banks give special consideration to small businesses and slow growth areas, am I correct in inferring that there is in fact a restrictive policy in effect generally, that bank credit will have to be rationed, and that it is for this reason the Minister of Finance has asked that special consideration be given to small business?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** No, Sir. The expansion in loans has never been greater. The banks will be able to respond to any legitimate search for credit, but in allocating this they have deemed it advisable in the interests of the country to give special priority to small businesses and particularly in slower growth areas.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, if there is ample money to meet proper loans, why has the minister found it necessary to ask the banks to give special consideration and priority to small business? He cannot have it both ways.

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[Translation]

#### MANPOWER

##### ALLEGED HIRING OF STUDENTS FROM FRANCE TO PICK TOBACCO IN ONTARIO—PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CANADIAN STUDENTS

**Mr. Gilles Marceau (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the employment of students during the summer is a major problem, I would like the minister to state whether it is true, as reported in the newspaper *Le Soleil* of April 4, 1973, that the Department of Manpower and Immigration pays all expenses for 250 students from France who wish to work in Ontario for the tobacco crop?

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow the minister to answer this question since it has been put directly. The hon. member knows that he may not ask a minister to either deny or confirm an item published in a newspaper. Be that as it may, we may agree that the question has been put directly and the minister may answer it briefly.

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, no such payment of transportation or other costs is being made by the government. Last year there were negotiations to bring in some foreign students which were entered into before the employment visa program was introduced, and it was deemed neces-