

*Oral Questions*

do what the forum asks, and I can assure the Hon. Member that that will be to the benefit of post-secondary students across the country and into the future.

Challenge '88, which provided for the best summer ever for all students last summer.

## REQUEST FOR IMPROVED STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State. As the Minister knows, university students are now graduating from university with almost impossible debt loads. According to his own figures, nearly 20 per cent of students are graduating with debts of over \$10,000.

Since education and skill training are supposed to be a national priority, when will the Minister take steps to give us an improved student loans program and new financial assistance programs for students? Will he make a commitment on that today so that students can start planning for the next semester?

**Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, last February for the first time in the country I established an intergovernmental committee with the provinces to make policy recommendations in respect to the future of student aid.

In September we established an advisory committee of all users, from student organizations and part-time student organizations, to handicapped student organizations and so on, in order to make recommendations to the federal Government and to the provinces, which will come forward in February, 1988.

The intergovernmental committee is meeting in January. The advisory committee is meeting in December. They will make their recommendations known, so that we can come forward with recommendations following the meeting in February, 1988.

**Mr. Allmand:** We look forward to those reports and the action to be taken by the Government on them.

## STUDENT SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Will the Minister take steps to improve our student summer employment programs so that more students can earn sufficient moneys in the summer and will not get into these debt situations?

Instead of cutting back these programs, as has been done over the last two years, will the Minister give a higher priority to student summer employment so that they will avoid the debts to which we have referred?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the Hon. Member has been for the last three years. That is exactly what we have done. We have produced a better student summer program called

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[Translation]

## TAX REFORM

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FAMILIES—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa-Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who apparently has decided to ignore the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs concerning his tax reform proposal.

Now that the Minister has rejected the Committee's recommendations for a minimum tax on financial institutions, could he tell us what his position is on the Committee's recommendations in support of Canadian families? Will those recommendations be accepted or will the White Paper's inequities to families be perpetuated, in view of the fact the Minister will not collect adequate taxes from the banks?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is possible for me to ignore the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Knowing as well as I do the chairman of that committee, it would be quite impossible for me to ignore it.

Let me give the Hon. Member the same answer as the one I have given to previous questioners. I appreciate the comments and the statements which he made about certain aspects of the White Paper. However, I am sure he would understand that if I responded to each one as they came up, in response to questions in the House, it would be inappropriate. I would be clearly indicating that I was not giving the degree of consideration that he would want me to give to the recommendations.

On that basis I would have to say to him that he will have to wait until the Ways and Means Motion comes down in December, at which time I will make a statement.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not aware that he has already given a clear signal about his approach to the committee's work, that is, that the committee might as well have taken the summer off rather than worked as hard as it did to come up with a concrete and coherent set of proposals in respect of tax reform?

First the Minister says no to the minimum tax, then he says to questioners from the two opposition Parties that he is not prepared to budge in terms of an accrual system of accounting for farmers in relation to tax, and then he says it is inappropriate to reply specifically.