

*Oral Questions*

grain perhaps through the Mississippi system, is the minister looking at these serious concerns, and will he come up with a proposal which is a little more moderate than the present proposal and also a little more in keeping with the spirit of the anti-inflation program?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the question of the impact of the St. Lawrence Seaway tolls upon shipments through the seaway was taken very fully into consideration before proposals were made in relation to those tolls. I am not surprised that those who actually have to pay tolls would prefer lower rates. That is the group from whom we have been hearing. The fact is that other costs of transportation have increased much more in the period since 1959, and no toll increases have taken place since then. The new tolls will represent, generally speaking, a smaller portion of transportation costs than the tolls did in 1959. They will represent a smaller portion related to the value of the goods than was the case in 1959. While any increase may be cited later as a reason for one or other particular diversion, I think these facts should be borne in mind when analyzing that and recognizing that other costs have been increasing much more. I am confident that the volume of goods going through the seaway will continue to increase quite remarkably over the next three or four years, notwithstanding our going to a more sensible financial arrangement in relation to tolls.

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● (1442)

**MANPOWER****ALLEGED FAILURE OF PROGRAMS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Today's figures show that unemployment among young people continues to run at two and a half times the unemployment rate for those over 25 and that this trend is accelerating. Will the minister tell the House why this government's programs to reduce unemployment among young people have failed so dismally and what he intends to do about this problem?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, if there were an area of major concern, it is the fact of youth unemployment. That is why I will be attending a meeting of the OECD in Paris to discuss with my colleagues from other countries the same problem that is being faced by them. In addition, we have a series and a myriad of programs that are in place. Our job experience training program for the summer will be increased sixfold for the winter component. We will be looking at that as only one of several avenues to be taken in dealing with what is a very, very difficult problem.

[Mr. McRae.]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. The 1977 Review of the Economic Council of Canada forecasts unemployment rates of seven per cent or more into the 1980's. It notes that if their projections are correct the extra \$150 million federal winter works projects and the new \$100 million employment credit program will not be sufficient to bring about the reduction in either youth or adult unemployment that is needed. It cautions that additional measures at both levels of government are likely to be necessary in both 1978 and 1979. May I ask the minister what action he is prepared to take to reduce this level of unemployment among young people which is currently at the level of 383,000 young Canadians?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the most efficient step at this time would be to restore throughout Canada a spirit of confidence and a new belief in this country's future. In the budgets that were put forward we have stated I believe that there was no way the problem could be solved by a government or governments, the private sector must assume its responsibilities. For that reason we have decided to reintroduce the measures put forward by my predecessor the hon. member for Rosedale. It is our hope that the incentives proposed last spring in the budget, together with my economic statement of this fall, will create the kind of climate that is desirable for a strong economic recovery in Canada.

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****FRANCE—POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST OVER DECORATION AWARDED PREMIER OF QUEBEC**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the French premier, Raymond Barre in which he rebuffed the protest expressed by the Canadian ambassador, Mr. Gerard Pelletier, over the award of a high decoration to the premier of Quebec and who is quoted in the newspapers as saying that the French government is well brought up in the rules of international courtesy, does the Canadian government intend to express any further diplomatic initiative in reply to this statement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, beyond pointing out to the people of Quebec, as I believe the Minister of Finance did the other day, that Quebec would be more interested in receiving investment from France as Saskatchewan, as Alberta or Nova Scotia does, than receiving medals.