

Unemployment survey axed

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The unemployment rate for students this summer may have reached 25 per cent but the department of Manpower and Immigration has scuttled the only method for determining that figure, the National Union of Students (NUS) has charged.

Senior department officials cancelled a five-year old supplementary survey on student employment, meaning the government has no way of determining if its summer

job programs are adequate, according to NUS president Pierre Ouellette.

This year the department slashed the budget of its Student Summer Employment and Activities Program (SSEAP) from \$60 to \$24 million, eliminating some 40,000 jobs normally provided by the cancelled Opportunities for Youth (OFY) and related programs.

Without an accurate assessment of this year's program there will be



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"Just work hard for the next 20 years, son, and maybe you'll be where I am now."
"Where's that, Pop?"
"On this side of the machine."

no firm basis to plan job programs for next year, Ouellette said in a letter to Manpower minister Robert Andras in July, asking that a survey be done in September.

NUS and other student organizations have repeatedly said that without adequate summer savings, many students will not be able to return to their studies. This year, the organization estimates that the rate of student summer unemployment could run from 12 to 25 per cent.

Manpower counts as a placement any job with a minimum of three days. One student could conceivably count as five placements and only have worked 15 days.

Andras said there were still 6,000 jobs available, although he didn't indicate the wage level or duration of employment. He did say, "These vacancies may not be exactly what students are looking for, but in a period of austerity things are not always easy."

NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor called Andras' attitude "callous, because he is using low-level vacant jobs to imply students don't want to work."

A research paper of the Official Opposition based largely on earlier work by NDP MP John Rodriguez, says the unemployment rate for the 14-25 age group is the highest since 1953.

Continued from page 9

people who felt the same way on many issues," said Peter Russell, former principal of Innes College where the program was held.

Russell, who was a strong critic of the program, also said he thought the Crowe report "over-rated" the program's alleged Marxist influence.

The university's academic affairs committee, however, recommended the program be continued under a triumvirate of administrators who would have absolute control and decide on the future of the policy committee.

Editorials based on the Crowe report appeared in Toronto's three dailies prior to the governing council's mid-June meeting.

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