

gram, cut back 20 per cent last year and proposes to cut back another 20 per cent this year. What I am urging is that the minister find the money to continue these programs. The department spends a great deal of money, and not many of the programs it has have shown the same kind of positive results in finding useful and dignified employment, which is not only good for the people who have graduated, but set an example for the whole native community. I urge the minister to find the money to carry on and, indeed, to expand this program rather than have it cut back, as it has been in the last two years, and in all likelihood it will be cut to virtually nothing in the next couple of years.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) has raised several questions regarding the effect of provincial restraints or cutbacks on federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements for education of native teachers at Brandon University in Manitoba.

At present, as the hon. member has mentioned, there are three such programs available to Indian people in the province from this very distinguished university.

First, there is the project for the education of native teachers, known by the acronym PENT. This program is given at the university and is sponsored by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Frontier School Division, which is a provincial body. Funding for this program is 75 per cent from the federal government and 25 per cent from the province. I understand this program is operated on five-year cycles of ten weeks per year. It is open to paraprofessionals, that is, teachers' aides who receive certification as fully qualified teachers on graduation from the five-year program.

This program has been in operation since 1971, I understand, and has had four graduating classes to date. I am very pleased to announce that provincial funding will not affect this program in any way. Both the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Frontier School Division are continuing their sponsorship, and a new group of students is expected to enter this program this summer.

A second program that is being offered by the University of Brandon at the present time is the Brandon University North Teacher Education Program, or BUNTEP. This program is sponsored by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and by the province of Manitoba under the Manitoba Northlands Agreement. It is offered, as the hon. member has said, at various centres or communities throughout northern Manitoba. Indian and Inuit affairs provide classroom space or professor accommodation wherever possible, if the program is located in an Indian reserve community. However, we are not directly involved in the funding of the program. I understand this is a full-time, three-year program.

Having regard to restraint by the provincial government, it does affect this program and it will reduce the total enrolment in the program to 90 students from the current 105. This is a relatively small reduction and we do not expect it will affect any Indian communities where the program is now operated.

Adjournment Debate

Finally, there is the regular entry teacher education programs offered by the University of Manitoba as well as Brandon University. I can assure the hon. member that the Indian and Inuit affairs program of this department will continue to sponsor students to enter these programs as we have done in the past. I would also like to assure the hon. member that provincial restraints will have no effect on this program as the province does not sponsor Indian students who are attending the two universities.

Through these programs the Manitoba region of Indian affairs has more than 200 registered Indian student-teachers enrolled. This is a very important part of our post-secondary education assistance program in this department.

There are two points that have to be made. First, in respect of the program that is being cut back, it is not funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; it is DREE that is the contributing federal sponsor. The second intervention I must make—

● (2220)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. I regret to inform the hon. parliamentary secretary that his allotted time has expired.

POST OFFICE—REASON FOR DELAY IN UNLOADING MAIL AT GATEWAY PLANT—WITHHOLDING OF DELIVERIES BY BULK MAILERS IN TORONTO

Mr. Rob Parker (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, on March 2 I rose to ask a question of the Postmaster General (Mr. Lamontagne). I found his answer, as his general performance in that of his department, unsatisfactory. The previous day the minister made a statement in the House that qualifies as a national joke to the effect that 95 per cent to 97 per cent of Canadian mail is delivered within one or two days. That statement must have had Canadian consumers rolling on the ground with glee, because anybody who has ever spent 14 cents for a stamp knows that that does not happen.

The question specifically related to two occurrences at the Gateway plant at Mississauga in Toronto. One situation was that some 60 tractor trailer loads of mail sat unloaded at that plant for upwards of 48 hours. I asked the minister if he would explain that. Secondly, I asked him why officials at that plant had been requesting at least one large bulk mailing operation in Toronto to delay its deliveries to that plant for a period of up to a week because they were too busy to handle it.

The response from the bulk mailers, which I did not include in the question, was that they would be happy to delay it and store it on their own premises provided the Post Office would certify it as delivered to the Post Office as was undertaken by that commercial mailing company to their clients. The Post Office said that they could not do that, so the bulk mailer went ahead and delivered it to the Gateway plant where, presumably, it was tossed in a corner for a week or more.

The reason for this is that there is a heavy rush by the bulk mailers in this country in an attempt to beat the postal increase of April 1, and it is a pretty logical rush. If one has a choice of lousy service for 14 cents apiece or lousy service for