

Student Summer Employment

Canada, the people of Canada? The students who can avail themselves of that kind of program are those who come from middle and upper income families. They are students who do not have to worry about getting a job and earning some money this summer so they can go back to school or university in September. I object to a program which is primarily designed to subsidize those who already have the most in this country.

Having been so critical of what the Prime Minister has announced today, following the quick study I have been able to make of the announcement I want to commend the government and the Department of National Health and Welfare for the programs which will come under that department. The program to involve 700 students in the study of drug abuse seems to me to be an extremely useful one. Another useful program is that which provides clinics for training athletic coaches. For too long Canada has lagged in its ability to produce athletes of a high calibre. Projects of this kind should be commended.

The whole idea of doing something for students this summer is one which every member of the House can support, but I want to close by again saying that in my view the bulk of the value which could have been obtained from this kind of program will be lost because the government waited until the middle of March to announce it instead of making plans and announcing them to the provinces, the cities and the voluntary agencies last September or October.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. Prime Minister has just said that 1,800,000 students will enter the labour market during the summer months.

I feel that the action taken by the government at the present time is nothing but a poultice on a wooden leg. It will not solve the problem.

Our young people, who constitute our Canadian population of tomorrow to use the right hon. Prime Minister's words, expect something more. Already late in 1971 for settling the problems facing our students, the government merely states that it will create 500,000 peacetime jobs for our young people, while 1,300,000 of them will be left in the cold.

If a world war broke out tomorrow morning, all students would find jobs immediately because they would be called up, we would clothe them, house them, feed them and pay them. The \$57,800,000 would not even be mentioned. That is what staggers me. In wartime, on the pretext of saving civilization, millions are not taken into account, the government spends money. However, in peacetime, to help the young adapt to our society, the government talks about \$57 million. It mocks the people, to their faces. That is what the present program boils down to.

We shall not oppose, of course, the assistance that may be granted to students during the summer months. However, we feel that a long-term program is required. We suggest the payment of an advance salary to students, which would enable them to adapt to society and prepare their future in Canada.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY FOR ACQUISITION OF CONTROLLING INTEREST IN HOME OIL COMPANY—RETENTION OF CONTROL**

Hon. Rober' L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister with regard to the government's acquisition of a controlling interest in Cygnus Corporation and thereby in Home Oil Company. Does the government intend to introduce legislation with regard to the acquisition of these shares or does the government consider it now has the necessary authority to acquire the shares and, if so, would the Prime Minister indicate what that authority is?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources announced to the House the other day what I can only repeat now, namely, that the negotiations have been undertaken. There is nothing new to report since the minister spoke to the House, I believe last Friday, and we do not think it is in the public interest now to say in which way this acquisition will proceed, if indeed it does proceed.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister to indicate for the information of the House and the people of the country whether the government feels it has the necessary legal authority at the present time to make this acquisition and, if so, what the authority is, or whether the government intends to introduce legislation? I respectfully suggest to the Prime Minister, Sir, that there is no conceivable reason in the public interest why he cannot give that information to the House, if he has it.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the question has to do with this particular transaction my answer can only be the previous one, but if the Leader of the Opposition is asking me for some kind of opinion on whether the government of Canada, by contract, can purchase something, the answer is that it can, but subject as always to the appropriation of the money by this House or to what other procedure is needed, either legislation or estimates. The government of Canada is not prohibited by law from buying an interest in this kind of company, if this is what the Leader of the Opposition is asking. If such an undertaking is proceeded with, of course we will have to come to the House in one way or another for funds to proceed with such appropriation.

Mr. Stanfield: I thank the Prime Minister for indicating to the House that if this transaction is completed the government will be coming to the House for the necessary authorization, at least in terms of money. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government intends to retain the controlling interest in the company if it completes the transaction or whether it intends to