

Oral Questions

whole matter under review and will a statement be made regarding this matter in due course?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has been inclined to forecast this sort of situation with regard to students this summer. It has been assigning its resources and trying to direct them toward the alleviation of this problem rather than dispersing them more widely. This has meant some changes in the program. We expect that we will be able to make better use of the money this year than we have in other years in relation to the employment of students. In that sense the matter is under review, but basically we have made our decisions.

Mr. Alexander: I imagine the answer to my initial question is that the government expects this will be a very bad summer with regard to employment for students. The fact of the matter is that Ontario has some one million students looking for jobs. The restraint program is restraining employers, thus reducing student employment in the summer. This has probably aggravated the situation in the provinces. Will the Acting Prime Minister assure the House and the students of Canada that this government will attempt to meet with industry, through chambers of commerce perhaps, and to meet with the colleagues of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration throughout the country so that they can devise steps to attack this very serious problem and thus reduce the high unemployment rate that is expected for Canada's students this summer?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, this kind of procedure has been followed every year in the past. We have always encouraged employers to employ students. We have worked with the provincial governments, and that is what we are doing this year. I cannot say whether the problem will be worse this year than it was in other years, but it is always a serious problem.

ADEQUACY OF VOLUNTARY SUMMER WORK PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN VIEW OF NEED FOR FUNDS FOR TUITION FEES

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Secretary of State have introduced programs for voluntary summer work, by what stretch of the imagination does this government think that students will be in a position to volunteer for jobs without pay when they need to pay for their university courses, their tuition fees, their books and room and board?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): There are some students in Canada who do not have to depend on summer employment to obtain funds to attend school. I know that some of these people are generous and public spirited, so I hope my hon. friend is not trying to discourage them from doing voluntary work.

AMOUNT OF REDUCTION IN BUDGET FOR STUDENT SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the

[Mr. Alexander.]

Acting Prime Minister? Are funds for the student program to be reduced from the \$35 million level of last year to \$20 million this year?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not remember the statistics. I will take the question as notice and try to answer tomorrow.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIDENT BASE AT BANGOR, WASHINGTON—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN PROTEST

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister about the projected construction of the Trident base at Bangor, in the state of Washington, on Puget Sound, some 60 miles from the Canadian border? In view of the action of Mayor Arthur Phillips of Vancouver, who has proclaimed Trident Concern Week and states that Trident is the most destructive weapon in history which, in its present location, will make the lower mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island part of a retaliatory target, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister if representations have been made by the Government of Canada to the United States protesting against the Trident base, in view of the potential danger to a large segment of the population of British Columbia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know there have been exchanges of views about this problem but I do not think the Canadian government has made formal protests about this matter, because I do not think that would be appropriate.

Mr. Broadbent: Why not?

Mr. Sharp: But there have been discussions between the two governments.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of National Defence is reported by the press to have said in British Columbia this weekend that Canadians should welcome the Trident base and encourage the United States to build it because of the deterrent protection it gives Canadians, and as the Trident system, unlike the Poseidon system, is not a deterrent, but a first-strike weapon, does the Acting Prime Minister not believe that the time has come for the Canadian government to raise its voice in protest against this mad escalation of nuclear destructive capacity before it is too late?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. I gather that the Minister of National Defence shares my views about the nature of this problem, which we should discuss with the United States. I do not think that we should protest against the construction of an instrument that may help to maintain the peace which has prevailed in the world for quite some time between the great powers.

An hon. Member: Then, you are both mad.