

*Oral Questions*

out. They are graduates with no job opportunities in what is supposed to be a land of opportunity. What is the Minister going to do? Is he going to give us more money for student employment? That is the very least he can do for these unemployed young people.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I am very glad that the Hon. Member asked a question about what we are doing because it gives me the opportunity to tell him exactly what has been put in place. We have introduced the National Training Program through which, this year alone, we will be spending about \$1.2 billion for training over 300,000 people, most of whom are young people under the age of 24. In the last six months we have invested in creating an additional 15,000 training places under that program in every region of Canada.

In addition, we have also brought forward a new employment program where we will provide direct subsidies to private employers to provide on the job work experience and training for students coming out and looking for their first-time job. That program will be coming into effect on September 1. We will be making the information available at that time.

We are following through on the principle of working with other major actors in the economy, like the private employers who can help young people and can give them the hope the Hon. Member is not prepared to give them by his comments.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, let us take the summer employment program, for example. If you take 1979 as a base year and take the rate of inflation since 1979, the Minister is actually putting in less money today to the Summer Student Employment Program than he was five years ago. These are the statistics. Is the Minister at least prepared to add more money to create more jobs in the Canada Student Employment Program?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, one of the things I should point out is that in that five-year period we went through a very serious time under the auspices of the previous Government when all of the direct employment programs were cancelled by the Conservative Government. We have had to make up for that omission ever since, by having to build new programs and put them in place. That happens to be the case. What we are doing this year for summer employment is providing job opportunities for upwards of 75,000 students across the country. We are presently engaged in a nation-wide campaign to bring on board other employers at the provincial and municipal levels, as well as private employers. We are trying to do our best, unlike Members opposite who, when they were in Government, did nothing at all.

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Calgary West.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Madam Speaker, the Minister conveniently forgets that jobs increased by 30,000 a month in the private sector when we were in Government.

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[Translation]

EDUCATION

CONTENT OF SCHOOL MANUALS

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. A study published today has found that most books used in Canadian schools are neither written nor published by Canadians and do not reflect a Canadian point of view. Does the same situation exist as far as francophone students are concerned, and if not, why not?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I understand the Hon. Member's interest in the subject, and I am sure that those of us on this side of the House who have children are equally concerned. However, the Hon. Member ought to know that education matters fall under provincial jurisdiction, and that especially at the level he is referring to, namely, primary and secondary schools, the Canadian Government has no authority to dictate what kind of books are to be used nor to influence their content in any way.

[English]

FUNDING SOUGHT FOR ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will know that under his predecessor, and carried on under his Government, a special program was produced for funding the creation of books for textbook purposes in the French language in Canada, in the late 1960s. Given the results of that study today, are the Prime Minister and his Government, some 18 years later, considering a similar program for English-speaking schools and English textbooks? It is long overdue.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the funds that the federal Government in recent years, certainly under my administration, has devoted to the area of education have been essentially for post-secondary education. It is true that we have provided funds for second language training under various programs promoted by the Secretary of State. I know of none which were directed specifically at the primary school level. I cannot recollect the program in the late 1960s to which the Hon. Member is referring. I will draw the attention of my colleague, the Secretary of State, to that program and be in a position to answer the Hon. Member when he asks the question again.