

*Oral Questions*

out that 140,000 new jobs had been created in the last few months. I point out to the minister that, according to figures released today, there are over 450,000 young people unemployed. That is more than 45 per cent of all the people unemployed. We are going into a period when high school and university students will be coming onto the job market, and I want to ask the minister whether he has any plans to expand the job-creation programs of his department to take care of a substantial number of those young people who are now or will in the very near future be unemployed.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, we have been trying to re-orient our job-creation programs to target in on those groups in the community which have the most difficult employment problems, and to concentrate our resources on giving them some opportunities and on bringing down work barriers.

As the hon. member knows, a new program beginning on May 1 is designed to create jobs for the handicapped and those who are the hard core unemployed in our communities. We will be concentrating our efforts in those areas to try to break those barriers down, in addition to maintaining broader based programs such as the student employment program, which will provide opportunities for students.

Where we are concentrating a large part of our resources is in the job centres across Canada. There will be 300 or 400. We will try to develop job opportunities in the private sector for students. Under that program there were close to 300,000 placements last summer, and we hope to have an even better record this year by making sure that the private sector provides the fullest opportunity for students and young people during the forthcoming months.

## INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN MANITOBA

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, I know the minister pays particular attention to the problems of our province. I am sure he has noticed that the number of unemployed, according to Statistics Canada, has increased from 30,000 last month in Manitoba to 35,000 this month and that the real rate of unemployment is not 35,000 but 51,000. The minister will know that in some areas of our city of Winnipeg the unemployment rate is not 10 per cent or 15 per cent but 50 per cent or more.

I want to ask the minister what plans he has, and what has happened to the \$4 billion western development fund. Rather than seeing an improvement in Winnipeg, we are seeing a further deterioration of a very serious situation.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, those of us who live in Manitoba must suffer because of the fact we have a provincial administration with a peculiar monetary policy. This has resulted in the fact that we do not have much of an economy or much economic development. Therefore we

are doing our best to compensate for the lack of effort in that province.

I point out to the hon. member that we are negotiating at the present time a major program for the core area of Winnipeg. The objective is to provide close to 3,000 or 4,000 jobs for the hard core unemployed in that area. That program was initiated by this federal government. We are asking for a response and for the co-operation of the other levels of government. I hope my colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and I will be able to finalize that agreement within a very short period of time so that we can get down to assisting those in the downtown area of Winnipeg who have the most serious employment requirements.

\* \* \*

## POST OFFICE

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CENTENNIAL

**Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. The Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their one hundredth anniversary next year. Will the Postmaster General ensure that a centennial stamp will be struck in 1982 for such a worth-while fraternal organization?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** Madam Speaker, in reply to the question asked by the hon. member, I am happy to tell him that I have already received representations from members on both sides of the House on this matter, and there is every reason to believe that the committee responsible for selecting the design of stamp issues will agree to commemorate this event next year.

\* \* \*

[English]

## THE ADMINISTRATION

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRADE

**Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the increasing importance of trade to Canada—trade represented some 31 per cent of our gross national product in 1980—I wonder if the Prime Minister would consider separating the trade portfolio from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce so that it might function with a greater degree of autonomy and responsibility.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, that is a suggestion which is made from time to time. The hon. member will recall that it was in the mid-1960s that the departments were united. At that time the argument was