

Student Employment

Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia; the surveys will be based on a sampling of 250 students in each region.

Members will also be interested in another survey—a much more extensive one—which we plan for this fall. We are currently arranging to have some 18,000 students from 38 universities and community colleges questioned on their summer employment and job-hunting experiences. The sampling will represent approximately 5 per cent of Canada's post-secondary student population, and I am confident the results of this survey will be most helpful in developing future programs to find summer jobs for students.

As far as high school students are concerned, 102,768 have so far registered at Canada Manpower Centres; as these students have only just become available for employment I cannot at this point give any reliable statistics on placements.

Another aspect of our student summer employment program has been to intensify efforts to encourage farmers to hire students for available agricultural jobs and to alert students to these job opportunities. Many farmers have responded positively to our canvassing but I must note that some students are still reluctant to take this type of work.

By the end of June, some 6,937 students had been placed in farm jobs, the majority being pre or secondary level students; at the same time there were 2,653 active or deferred vacancies for farm jobs recorded in our C.M.C. files. Up to June 30, approximately 3,000 students had refused summer jobs in agriculture.

I am hopeful, though, particularly this month and in August, that students who have not found jobs will accept summer employment in agriculture. In this connection members will recall that this year I have reduced by 50 per cent the number of foreign students coming to Canada to work on farms; this was done so that more of the jobs could be filled by Canadian students.

I assure hon. members of my concern about the student summer employment situation in Canada, always bearing in mind two important considerations. One is that any federal program of this kind must be studied in relation to resources and that services for one group of individuals—in this case, students—must not be disproportionate to services expected by other Canadian citizens who have employment difficulties.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

The second is the fact that the government of Canada cannot accept sole responsibility for the employment of students during the summer months. Other levels of government and interested groups such as education authorities, unions, industries, and students themselves must share this responsibility and be involved in initiatives and activities which help provide financially and socially meaningful summer jobs for this particular segment of our population.

The problem cannot be solved this summer or in the years to come, by governments alone, but only through the joint efforts of everyone concerned—employers, voluntary agencies, educational bodies and the students themselves. As I indicated earlier, my department will be evaluating this year's program and experiences throughout the summer, and I will be in a better position in the late fall to give a more complete and detailed report on the success of the program and the extent of the problem this summer.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) for making a statement about student summer employment. To be fair, we must commend the minister and the department for their efforts not only in finding more jobs for students in agencies of government but in taking the lead in encouraging private industry to take a greater interest in our young people and to display a greater sense of responsibility toward them. I know the minister thinks, as I do, that we have a responsibility to our young people who, at this most important time of their lives, are endeavouring to further their education. Many students depend on the money they earn from summer jobs to pay for the following year's education. We owe it to our young people to encourage private industry and departments of government to make as many summer jobs available as possible.

The statistics the minister brought to our attention this afternoon are deserving of a few comments. They point out, it seems to me that we need a better system to show statistically what is actually happening. I say this because, in spite of what the minister said according to the figures I have from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics relating to employment and unemployment, there are still 144,000 teenagers out of work. These statistics are as at the end of June; therefore they do not really include all those who might