

Opportunities for Youth Program

of the approved goals of the project, to maintain information and offer assistance on the financial arrangement of projects. To assist them, they will be hiring temporarily some 65 field officers, most of them post-graduate students. Once the initial payment on a project is made, further payments during the course of the work will require itemized statements for items in the approved budget. The final payment will be made when project administrators send in their final project report, and payments for at least 5 per cent of their budget must await this final stage.

Project administrators are reminded that Opportunities for Youth is using public money and that all claims are subject to audit. All projects over \$25,000 and at least 10 per cent of those of lesser value will be subject to an audit undertaken by the Department of Supply and Services. In the case of projects which over the summer are seen to be failing in their objectives, inquiries will be made and problems resolved, or further funds reduced or curtailed altogether.

Having outlined to the House the nature and intent of the government's actions in establishing these summer 1971 programs, and the Opportunities for Youth program in particular, I would like to speak to the particular charges contained in the motion before the House, and to reply to sweeping charges made outside the House by some people. The government has been charged with misuse of the Opportunities for Youth Program, Mr. Speaker. The program was designed to respond to the initiative of young Canadians themselves. It has done just that, and in the process created more than 31,000 paid jobs for those same young Canadians who will be working on some 2,400 projects.

Yesterday I heard a report that the Progressive Conservative house leader had suggested that his examination of lists of projects had led him to the conclusion that they were written in an overly glowing fashion, and that most of the projects were nonsense. However, he hastened to assure his audience that Opportunities for Youth is basically a sound idea, as his colleague has also done today. By statements like this, the opposition is in effect telling more than 30,000 young people who will be working on more than 2,400 projects that their efforts are useless and not appreciated.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I love being quoted by members on the government side, but they should at least quote me correctly. I hope the minister will do so. I said that a very substantial number of the programs were stupid, and some of them were insane and nonsensical. That is something of course that can be easily proven.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, no doubt the hon. member will want to specify and the Secretary of State will no doubt want to look into his suggestions as to how this program could be improved, but I have not heard those suggestions today.

The fact remains that the Official Opposition has tarred these young people generally with the same brush, and suggested that each one of these Opportunities for Youth

[Mr. Stanbury.]

project personnel is to be suspected of foolishness and wastefulness. Such statements amount to telling a group in Fredericton, who will record the memoirs of veterans of World War I and place the material in archives for the use of students, and a group in Kamouraska organizing activities in old people's homes, and a group in Pembroke that will be helped to publish a weekly bilingual newspaper for that area, and a group in Winnipeg conducting a pilot project in day-time recreation and learning activities for children of working parents, and a group in Saskatoon that is aiding a community service bureau with family budgeting education and rehabilitative counselling, and a YMCA sponsored group in Calgary that will help organize a program for slow learners who need to develop social and physical skills, and a group involved with the British Columbia Human Rights Council to compile a profile of ethnic communities in B.C.—I could go on for some time, Mr. Speaker—that they are engaged in nonsensical activities, that their employment is worthless, and that they have no business formulating such ideas and getting paid for putting them into practice.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I thought I had driven that home even to the minister. I thought even he was capable of comprehension. We did not make any such statement at all and I hope the minister will try to stay with the facts.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. In the opinion of the Chair, this is not a point of order but a question of debate. Knowing that the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) regularly participates in debates, he will get a chance to make these points later this afternoon. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Stanbury: If I was unfair to the hon. gentleman I certainly apologize, if he did not say these things but only implied them—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. MacInnis) rises on a point of order.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, it is always in order for a member to call attention to the fact that some other hon. member is reflecting unfairly on a situation. Unless the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) singled out the programs mentioned or referred to them as not acceptable programs, then any member of the House may raise a point of order and take exception to the insinuations being made by the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Standing Orders of the House are quite clear. Hon. members are allowed to correct statements and clarify some point. Once it is done, I do not see hon. members can get up continually while another hon. member is making a speech and try to correct a statement of another hon. member. This can be done by hon. members making their