

a legal problem. It is a question of scientific judgment and that is what we are working on.

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EMPLOYMENT

CUTBACK OF SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. This morning the minister announced the Summer Student Employment Program for 1981. As he knows, for people aged 15 to 21 this is a very important matter. Will he advise the House why he felt it necessary to cut back on the number of summer jobs for students from 70,000 to 49,000?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member will look at the statement, he will see that we say the number is 49,000. However, there are several streams to that program, including the cadet program and the student hire program. There are several streams within the confines of that program.

The other allocation was to put further money back into the community employment programs to provide for ongoing work in the chronically high unemployment areas. Also under the new program we announced this morning is the program for the employment of the disadvantaged. A large number of those will be young people who have been chronically unemployed in those areas. It goes back to our basic philosophy, which is to try to target our resources at those who have the greatest need. We feel that those with the greatest need are the young people in the marketplace who have the most difficulty finding a job, and they should be given the greatest source of assistance from this government.

Mr. Crombie: Is the minister saying out of all of that that there will be 21,000 fewer jobs for students this summer?

Mr. Axworthy: No, Madam Speaker.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I wish to ask the government House leader some specific questions with respect to the business of the House. Last week the Chair struck down the first part of the tax bill, indicating the government will have to fund some borrowing authority, if it intends to do so, in another bill. Can the House leader tell us his plans with respect to that and where the bill would stand in the order of priorities if he did indeed bring it forward?

Also, we have some indication that there is an intention to introduce an excise tax bill. I wonder if the House leader might comment on that. The customs tariff bill is presently on

Business of the House

the order paper, which the government wishes to call. Is he prepared to say something with respect to that?

In answer to a question by the Leader of the Opposition, he indicated there were processes in place for some institutional reform. We know the freedom of information bill is on the order paper. I understand from his parliamentary secretary that some parliamentary reform proposals are being prepared. Will he confirm that is the case and indicate what priority he attaches to each of these matters to which I have alluded?

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, in so far as the borrowing authority is concerned, we will be in a better position to give some indication to the hon. member in the near future. The same answer applies to the excise tax bill.

With regard to the customs tariff bill, there is an agreement among us. Following consultation, we agreed to dispose of second reading stage of this bill tomorrow afternoon. There will be one speaker per party. The bill will then be sent to a standing committee of this House rather than Committee of the Whole. That is the understanding among House leaders, and that will be done tomorrow.

Following that, we will resume debate on second reading stage of the income tax bill now under discussion. I hope that bill will go to Committee of the Whole at the beginning of next week. There is a good indication that that is a serious possibility. I think it would be very useful to allow members to deal with the specific provisions of that bill. It would be much more useful than sticking with second reading stage to which so many days have already been devoted.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, essentially this is the business for next week, and we hope that we shall also have consideration in Committee of the Whole of the bill to amend the Income Tax Act. As everyone knows, today is an opposition day. Finally, as concerns the last request of the Conservative House leader in relation to the question of parliamentary reform, I believe that my reply to his leader was complete. Once again I will say that this matter is very important for all members of this House. It is true that we are now working on some parliamentary reform proposals and I hope to be able to brief all the hon. members on the subject reasonably soon, but my colleague will understand that we have a relatively full agenda for the coming weeks and months as we have to consider very urgent matters dealing with the economy, energy and the Constitution. Therefore it is not very likely that our proposals can be fully approved and made public for discussion purposes before Easter. However, I hope that between Easter and the summer break, we shall be able to make these positions public so that they may be analysed and considered by the House as a whole.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, the House leader did not comment on the freedom of information bill which was the one matter I mentioned. That can be discussed among ourselves, or perhaps he may wish to comment on it now.