

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 29, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MANPOWER

STATEMENT ON SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I promised some months ago that I would make a statement on the experience with summer employment for students. Recently another question about this matter was asked in the House, and with this in mind I should like to report briefly on results last summer and to indicate some of the initiatives currently being followed by my department to assist students in finding jobs next summer.

Based on a survey carried out by my department last fall, some 323,000 students were able to find paying jobs last summer. I may say that the survey covered 39 post-secondary institutions—universities, colleges and technological institutes—across the country.

Of the roughly 400,000 students from post-secondary institutions, some 348,000 were in the summer employment market and of these 93 per cent found summer work. An estimated 323,000 of the 348,000 students who sought paid summer employment found jobs. Of these, 14 per cent worked for more than four months, 60 per cent for two to four months, 18 per cent for one to two months, and 8 per cent for less than a month.

This is generally a good result and encourages us to maintain and expand the program launched to assist student employment in the past summer. Of those who were not looking for jobs, nearly half continued their studies; another 25 per cent travelled, took time off or did unpaid volunteer work.

Half of those who found employment expressed satisfaction with the duration of their jobs. One-third would have liked two months more work and 11 per cent stated they would have worked more than two months.

Of the students working, 72 per cent were employed in industry and 14 per cent with provincial governments across Canada, while 7 per cent were granted employment with the federal government and a further 7 per cent with municipalities.

• (2:10 p.m.)

The federal government hired some 11,365 students, an increase of 26.8 per cent over the previous year. Students working for the federal governments earned \$11,129,417 in salaries and wages. Seventy-five per cent of those hired were returning to post-secondary institutions. Students of post-secondary institutions in federal employment earned an average of \$1,083, while high school students earned an average of \$654.

Finally, plans are under way in my department, in co-operation with private and public organizations and provincial government departments, to complete plans and programs for the coming summer months. A national committee for student summer employment is functioning and includes representatives of the Association of Canadian Universities and Colleges, the University Career Planning Association, the Economic Council of Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Working through manpower centres both across the country and at the universities, as well as with federal and provincial departments of government, it is hoped that employment can be provided for the majority of students in order to obtain funds to finance their continued education.

In closing I would pay tribute to the energetic campaign being carried on by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce through its members, who have been working closely with my department to make the "Hire a Student" campaign a success next summer.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I received a copy of the minister's statement just as I took my seat. I should like to make a few comments on what the minister has said and about this problem.

There can be no question that a number of students had difficulty obtaining employment last summer, and presumably difficulty will be encountered again this summer. I suggest