

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****CULTURAL POLICY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS—MINISTER'S POSITION**

was announced entitled the Immediate Employment Stimulation Program. This Program was allocated approximately \$100 million for 1982-1983 and it was to employ in the order of 14,000 people. Unlike a lot of the other job-creation programs which the Minister has, there is very little known about this Program and it seems there is some mystery surrounding it. Would the Minister be willing to make a public statement which would give us an update on where the program is now, so that we will understand where the money has been spent and on what projects?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member for Rosedale knows, I am not reluctant to talk about the job-creation programs we have. I think it is important that Canadians understand what we are attempting to do. The particular Program he has referred to really is not a program as such, but an allocation of funds that were set aside in the June budget by the Minister of Finance. They were allocated to a number of different Departments to fund projects which were on the shelf or which could be funded directly through them. The Department of Fisheries, the Department of Public Works or others each spent proportional funds across Canada in different areas to provide for a stimulus for those projects in which jobs could be created in the light construction area. In effect, what we would have to do is find particular projects that were initiated by individual Departments. My Department was only one among several participating in that particular allocation of funds.

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROJECTS FUNDED

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, I understand the nature of the program and the allocations to the various Departments that were made at that time. Indeed, according to the Minister at the time, money was allocated for the construction of small craft harbours, local airports, and various other sorts of community-based projects. I think all Hon. Members would like to be a part of that Program and they would like to speak on behalf of their constituents for that Program. What I am asking the Minister, and I would like him to give us an undertaking now, is whether he will undertake to do what I think is normal and put out a public report indicating where the money has gone and on what projects?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as I explained to the Hon. Member, the information concerning the projects themselves is certainly public, but they are being initiated by several Departments. Therefore we would have to get together the different Ministries and provide an over-all list of those projects. I am sure that can be done. If the Hon. Member wants to put that request on the Order Paper, we would be glad to gather that information for him.

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. It concerns the Cultural Policy Report that was released today. My Party has supported the concept of public broadcasting for the past 50 years, and we do not intend to stand idly by and let that tradition go down the drain. We know that broadcasting really has only two choices, either support by the state or a sell-out to the United States. Does the Minister agree with the Applebaum-Hébert recommendation that the CBC's production of programs be emasculated and, in turn, go for a privatization, American-style, of CBC? If the Minister does not agree with the recommendation, what does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I just received the final edited version of the Applebaum-Hébert Report this morning, which I intend to table in the House at the first opportunity this afternoon. As Mr. Applebaum himself indicated this morning, he thought that the general gist of the report was to have an even better CBC in the long run. I expect that the recommendations of Messrs. Applebaum and Hébert on the CBC will obviously be a matter of in-depth debate throughout the country. The Government will listen to that debate, obviously including any contributions from the Opposition and Parliament, before making up its mind.

● (1425)

I would like to say, however, that it is quite clear in the mind of the Government that, in a country like Canada, there is an important role to be played by public broadcasting.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER SUPPORT CANADIAN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, that is not much of a response by the Minister since he has had the Applebaum-Hébert Report for at least two months and has been sitting on it. In fact he has already made responses to it in a leaked document, yet he gives us that kind of answer, that he is not in a position to tell us what he is going to do today, but that it is a matter for public debate.

Where does the Minister stand on this issue? What will he do about public broadcasting? It is ironic that the only two radical recommendations in the whole Report which talks about job-creation for Canadian artists—that is one of its themes—are job destruction in the CBC for approximately 6,000, and job destruction in the National Film Board.

Can the Minister assure the House that the Government will give more support and not less to Canadian film and television production, and that he will take some steps to ensure that our productions are not boycotted across the country by foreign-owned theatre chains?