

Inquiries of the Ministry

situations they will be looked at, but we have no intention of changing the basic regulations as they have been established for everyone.

Mr. Baldwin: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are four or five members seeking supplementaries but we will have to move on to the next subject in a moment. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Peace River on a supplementary and then go to the next subject.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN PROJECTS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): In view of the fact that the supplementary estimates for this program were pushed through last session and as there is some question about the validity of some of these programs, including the one in Toronto which apparently is for an answering service for an alleged homosexual society, will the minister co-operate in having a specific inquiry made into some of these projects rather than their just being considered in the normal way on estimates?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman has any specific reference to any project, we want to hear about it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: I will give you the telephone number—or ask Information Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): What are you worried about, Jed?

Some hon. Members: Explain!

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I wish to encourage the hon. member to describe the projects more accurately than he has. In answer to the other question, every project will be monitored at least once. There will be a financial audit and progress reports are required from the sponsors of every project. The whole approvals administration is now being converted in phase two into a monitoring operation, so we do intend to be in close contact with these projects to see that they stay on track in accordance with the contracts.

* * *

THE MINISTRY

LETTER SENT UNDER SIGNATURE OF MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION SEEKING FUNDS FOR PARTY—REQUEST FOR LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and concerns a billet-doux that he, as bagman for the Liberal party, sent out in which it is stated: “funds must be available so that work of the party,

[Mr. O'Connell.]

in the next few months, may be adequately financed”. I ask this question in view of the admonition of the Prime Minister last night that we should “cultivate with a sure hand and a delicately tuned sense of understanding”.

Mr. Trudeau: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: In that spirit may I ask the minister whether he, being a minister of the Crown with hundreds of millions of dollars to dispose of, sending out such letters and being unable to bifurcate himself into a minister and bagman at the same time, would table the list of recipients of this letter so that we may decide what the purpose of it was and whether it is contrary to the principles of government that have always been recognized?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I state solemnly in this House, that I have never collected a cent for the Liberal party; as leader for Quebec, and responsible for Quebec, I merely sent a letter of invitation to a fund-raising cocktail. I believe the right hon. member or some members of his party may even have received an invitation because they are sent systematically by the Federation. All I did was send a letter and no one—this I state solemnly—knows the names of the companies that ask for subsidies from the department; never are those companies approached for funds, unless it is later on, and then I know not by whom.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the question is, did the minister send such a letter because I saw the letter signed by his own hand.

Some hon. Members: He said so.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What business has this minister, heading a responsible department, to bring about at this time a system of benevolence that passed out during the days of the Stuarts? I ask the minister if he will table the list of those to whom the letter was sent so we can determine what he had in mind?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the question should be directed to the Quebec wing of the Liberal Federation of Canada; it is that body which sent the letter and I am the one who signed it. It is merely a letter of invitation—

An hon. Member: Attention, be careful.

Some hon. Members: Be cautious with your answer.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier):—that is to say—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Resign, resign.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier):—that is to say that there is in the Liberal party a democratic spirit which does not exist in the Progressive Conservative party.

[English]

Mr. Hees: You signed it. It is your letter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order, please.