

When 80 per cent of Canada's farmland is in the West and 60 per cent of agricultural foreign exchange is earned by exports from the West, it is only reasonable to ask that fairness and equity be put back into the system and these percentages be considered when making funding decisions. It is vitally important that significant funding and researchers be replaced in the western region. Otherwise we are left with new research facilities but no researchers to man the stations.

Mr. Speaker: I have to interrupt the Hon. Member.

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FINANCE

GRANT PAID TO ALLIANCE COMMUNITY SERVICES, TORONTO

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my statement today deals with what appears to be another question of government use of public funds for patronage reasons. The Minister of Employment and Immigration awarded Alliance Community Services of Toronto \$585,000. This public money was found in the Employment Development Branch of the Minister's Department.

On January 5 of this year the Alliance Community Services opened their doors in Toronto despite the objections of every major Italian-Canadian interest group.

The coalition against the grant included: the National Italian Congress; National Canadian Benevolent Corporation; Centre for Italian Culture and Education; the Italian Canadian Business and Professional Association, and the existing service groups such as Costi, which have been providing excellent services to the Italian-Canadian community for over 30 years.

Those in favour of giving the money were the Vice-President of the Eglinton-Lawrence Liberal Association and the Vice-President of the York West Liberal Association.

In addition to those outside groups who were opposed, it appears as though the Minister's own Department recommended against giving this \$500,000 plus grant.

The question that arises in the minds of most of us is how the Minister reaches the conclusion that two or three Liberal hacks should take precedence over the majority view of those who are most concerned in the matter of providing services.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired. Oral Questions.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

SPECIAL RECOVERY CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM—
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development, I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. I want to make it clear that no one in this Party is opposed to the legitimate use of federal job-creation moneys to create legitimate jobs. What we are concerned about is the slushing of millions of dollars of federal money into Liberal ridings across Canada.

Mr. Regan: Baloney!

Mr. Siddon: We call for an end to this kind of waste and favouritism.

Will the Acting Prime Minister confirm a CTV news report which alleges that Liberal ridings were favoured for funding under the Special Recovery Capital Projects Program in the same manner as they were under the Special Employment Initiatives Program? Also, will the Minister table today a riding by riding breakdown of the scrapped SRCPP funding that has been disbursed already?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I would think that Members have access to that information with respect to the special recovery program. I remember a long time ago, when I was Minister of Transport, that all these things were done very, very openly, and communiques were issued in each instance. I cannot see how this could be hidden in any way, shape or form.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Good old smiles and chuckles.

Mr. Pepin: I will be glad to ask my friend, the new Minister of Transport, to send copies of these announcements at the time they are made.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER FURNISH LIST OF APPROVED
PROJECTS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, the information contained in the January 26 leaked Cabinet document does not agree with the kind of limited information to which the Minister refers. In fact this information confirms that in the prairie provinces, with relatively the same population as Quebec, almost half as much funding has been made available through the Special Recovery Capital Projects Program than is the case in the Province of Quebec.

I also have a briefing note here that lays out the answers the Ministers are expected to give to us in order to divert the question. The question is simply this: recognizing that the Canadian Construction Association projects that less than