

Oral Questions

Let me indicate further that it was this government that undertook an audit in relation to contracting and management practices in the Department of Natural Resources. We determined that those problems existed. We have taken corrective measures in relation to them.

An audit done in June 1995 indicates that we have corrected the mistakes of the past. We have put in place management practices and courses in relation to conflict of interest. I might say to the hon. member that to the satisfaction of the auditors involved we have been successful in dealing with the practices that were identified as unacceptable.

Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to think that most of the relatives were already hired, but this year's audit also says that bypassing merit to hire family members has become an accepted way of doing business in the department.

It is not acceptable, which is why I asked for the list of contracts the department had investigated so that we could have a look to see how deep this mess was within the department.

Incredibly we find the department did not keep such a list or now it cannot find it. Will the minister undertake to find this list of contracts and table it in the House so we can see whether the problem of nepotism extends to her department?

Hon. Anne McLellan (Minister of Natural Resources, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that corrective action has been taken.

Mr. Abbott: Prove it.

Ms. McLellan: I am quite happy to prove it to the hon. member. I have a list of measures we have taken in my department to correct the situation. I will be happy to share it with the hon. member.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the study commissioned by the CBC on the coverage of the referendum campaign reveals that the French network gave essentially the same coverage to the yes and the no sides, whereas the English network gave almost two thirds of its time to the no side. Yet, the study concludes that both the French and English networks were neutral in their coverage.

Does the Minister of Canadian Heritage agree with the conclusion that CBC's English network was neutral in its coverage of the referendum campaign?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I do not draw conclusions on studies I have not yet seen. The CBC's board of directors asked for some

reports. I am told that these reports were submitted to the board. I still have not received them. I will comment after seeing them.

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the minister does not want to make a pronouncement. However, given that today's newspapers mention that the French network gave 52 per cent of its time coverage to the yes side and 48 per cent to the no side, while the English network gave 62 per cent of its time coverage to the no side and 38 per cent to the yes side, could the minister make some enlightening comments on these figures?

• (1450)

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I know that the CBC's board of directors intends to follow up on the report. Again, I am reluctant to comment on figures taken from a newspaper article. I want to get much more information on the CBC's coverage and on the exact nature of the report.

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[English]

TORONTO

Mr. Barry Campbell (St. Paul's, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the greater Toronto area is home to 4.5 million people. The area has been disproportionately impacted by the recession and continues to lag in the recovery, with negative repercussions for the entire Canadian economy.

The Government of Canada spends millions and millions of dollars in the GTA often in ways people do not see directly. My question is for the minister responsible for the infrastructure program. Will he tell the House how that one program is contributing to economic recovery in the greater Toronto area?

Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton (President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in answering the question I am pleased to note in the gallery opposite a holder of an office that I had the pleasure of holding at one time. I am pleased to note and welcome the mayor of Toronto, Her Worship Barbara Hall, to the House.

In the greater Toronto area we have approved over 300 infrastructure projects involving an infusion of some \$755 million, which has created in excess of 11,000 jobs in that area. With the co-operation of Mayor Hall and the Toronto City Council many of these projects have been in the downtown Toronto area.

All these projects, just like all projects across the country, have helped to put Canadians back to work, have helped to strengthen the infrastructure in our communities and to bring in additional investment dollars. They have all been done in a co-operative way, which proves that the federal, provincial and local governments can work together for the improvement of the quality of life of Canadians.