

Employment and Immigration has appeared before the parliamentary Committee and has answered all the questions that were asked about the program. If my hon. friend has not been following what the Minister of Employment and Immigration has been saying, I cannot help him in that regard. He should follow what the Minister has said before the Committee.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it is in regard to the same issue. Yesterday the Prime Minister indicated these funds were allocated on the basis of unemployment rates. There is not a word in the criteria about employment rates. However they do say: "These projects were not the subject of formal consultation with Members of Parliament".

Was there or was there not a meeting of the caucus of the Liberal Party in April and May where the criteria were explained? Was there or was there not consultation held with at least some Liberal backbenchers, when promises of \$500,000 were made? Was there or was there not notification given to Liberal riding associations regarding how to participate in this particular fund?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has just once again repeated that two Budgets, one in June, 1982 and another in April, 1983, put these programs forward. They involved some 15 Departments and many hundreds of millions of dollars. They are directed toward giving jobs to the unemployed. They are spent in all parts of Canada, in every province.

An Hon. Member: Yes, to get votes.

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member says "to get votes". Mr. Speaker, if we are giving money to people who are unemployed we are not giving it to them on the basis of whom they will vote for. We are giving it to them because they are unemployed. I do not imagine the Member, even in his wildest errancies, would suggest that we would ask unemployed people who they are going to vote for before giving them money. I am told there are some Provinces, such as Prince Edward Island, where more money has been spent in the Conservative ridings than in the Liberal ridings. The money is directed towards the unemployed.

The Hon. Member asks if there has been any consultation with Liberal Members. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been consultation. When the Minister introduces his Budget, he does in caucus what he does in the House; he explains his programs. Liberal Members are diligent enough to follow up on the those programs. The funds are allocated. They are there. The programs are public and contained in the Public Accounts. Liberal Members may be doing their jobs better than Conservatives. That is all I can say.

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS BE TABLED

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House have a job to do. One of the aspects of that job is to fight on behalf of the unemployed in our ridings in those parts of the country that are not represented by Liberal Members. On November 24 we were told that 844 projects had been funded, to the extent of \$138 million out of the \$150 million. If the Prime Minister has nothing to hide, if that money is distributed fairly to all the unemployed in the country, and if there are not first class unemployed Canadians in Liberal ridings and second class unemployed Canadians in Conservative ridings, then all he has to do is table the list. The list has been available since November. If it is simply tabled today the country will be able to see whether we have first class unemployed in Liberal ridings and second class unemployed in the rest of the ridings. Will he table the list?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can repeat the answer given by the Minister of Finance. According to my information the question was asked by the Hon. Member for St. John's East on January 24, only a few weeks ago. The Minister is presently attending an OECD conference in Paris. I am sure he has asked his officials to follow up on the question and provide the answer. We do not have it. The Minister does not have it. I do not have it. The question was asked, Mr. Speaker, less than three weeks ago. It asked for hundreds and hundreds of compilations. I imagine they are in process. I cannot table it now.

When the Hon. Member talks about second class unemployed, he should talk about second class Members of Parliament. The unemployed in this country remember what the Tories did in 1979. They cut off the job-creation programs and that is why they have the mentality of people not following up on the programs of the Minister of Finance when he put money forward.

NATURE OF LIST

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance. They have indicated to the House today that they know of the funding at least with regard to Prince Edward Island and for the riding of the Member for Kingston and The Islands. What lists are you referring to? If there is a list, will you table it? Or is the Minister of Finance again referring to conversations with senior staff?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member had followed the Order Paper he would see that his own colleague from St. John's East is asking for a list. We are not imagining this. He is asking for a list. It is on the Order Paper, dated January 24, which is less than three weeks ago. Moneys are being spent all the time. I believe moneys were even spent in Schefferville to create jobs. Even though Schefferville happens to be a Liberal riding we are still going to spend money there when unemployment is created.