

*Oral Questions*

## UNSPENT BALANCE OF FUNDS

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Mr. Speaker, to get some idea of the enormity of the amount of money these fellows are giving away to their friends, I want to point out that the \$300 million is equal to the Career Access Program to be used for employment opportunities for the young people of our country.

What money is the Minister now going to direct that has not now been spent? What amount does he now have that is available for the rest of the country and the rest of the Members of Parliament? Can the Minister be specific as to how much remains? What crumbs are there left for the rest of the people of Canada after he has dealt with his Liberal friends?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the funds that have been expended under this program have gone to a whole variety of groups, including municipalities, environmental organizations, church groups, and ethnic communities. I do not consider it an insult to have these people characterized as friends.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Grits.

**Mr. Roberts:** If the hon. gentleman is inferring that somehow these are political affiliates in some partisan sense, then he is insulting a whole variety of important and credible communities all across this country. He will regret those words.

The second part of the question, if he has asked how much more funding is available—

**Mr. Epp:** Are you suggesting an election?

**An Hon. Member:** The Opposition does not want an answer.

**Mr. Roberts:** The answer to the second part of the Hon. Member's question about how much funding is still available under this program is that there is somewhere roughly around \$90 million, I believe, that has yet to be allocated.

## COVENANT HOUSE—NEGOTIATION OF GRANT

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the person who negotiated on behalf of the Government the grant to Covenant House. I would therefore like to ask the Member for York South-Weston who authorized that Member to negotiate on behalf of the Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** With all due respect to the Right Hon. Member, a question can be directed to a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary, or a chairman of a committee. Individual Members cannot answer. I regret to tell the Right Hon. Member that.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, we, therefore, have a situation where an individual Liberal Member of Parliament can go out and negotiate on behalf of the Government but

cannot be held accountable in this House of Commons to answer as to the program.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** They destroy the system, and they applaud it. They are sick.

## AUTHORIZATION FOR NEGOTIATION OF PROJECT

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration my question. Who authorized the Hon. Member for York South-Weston—who gave her authority to negotiate a project in a constituency other than her own? Was it the Minister himself? Was it Senator Keith Davey? Was it an integral part of the Liberals' campaign for re-election? Do you need to know the Minister's private telephone number? Do you need to carry a card in the Liberal Party of Canada if you are going to be eligible for grants that are expenditures of public money designed to help all of the people of this country?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is really good to see the former Leader of the Opposition in such fine fettle and to see him so applauded by his backbenchers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roberts:** Many of them must wish he were back in his old place.

The question of the Right Hon. Member is really claptrap. To suggest that no Member of Parliament should discuss with any group what possibilities there are of receiving funding under an existing government program is extraordinary.

**Mr. McGrath:** In somebody else's riding?

**Mr. Roberts:** Of course Members of Parliament on this side and Members of Parliament on that side discuss, time in and time out, time immemorial, various possibilities that groups might have of taking advantage, quite properly, of government programs. The right hon. gentleman is concerned about not having sufficient access. I will send him my telephone number. I will be happy to talk to him anytime he wants.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Mr. Speaker, what is at issue here is accountability, which is the core of this parliamentary system.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** I have already had the Member for Niagara Falls, my twin, out in my constituency trying to