

The key word here is companies. The Kuwaiti government will not issue individual working visas. Our government has indicated that it will not issue a list of Canadian companies awarded contracts.

I ask: How do Canadian workers access this wonderful employment opportunity that this government speaks of daily?

Canadian workers who have been laid off due to the made-in-Canada recession and plant closures are desperately seeking employment opportunities. Many of my constituents are willing to relocate to the Middle East, yet they are frustrated with the lack of co-operation and initiatives from the federal government.

• (1410)

This government is sending mixed signals to the Canadian people. This government is giving Canadian companies exclusive control over the contracts, and this government once again is ignoring the wants and needs of our own employable people.

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DECENTRALIZATION

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, have you ever heard your constituents say that we can solve Canada's problems by decentralizing government? I have heard politicians and academics say that but not my constituents.

Some politicians say that we need to disentangle government, that we are over-governed, that we need to get the decision-making process closer to the people, and that that will eliminate waste and inefficiency. It all seems to make sense.

However, if we decentralize, what happens to our national social safety net? What happens to national standards? What happens to the equality of all Canadians? Should the city of Toronto's works department, for instance, really look after the Trans-Canada Highway? If it did, would that eliminate waste and inefficiency?

Personally I think we still need a strong national government.

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EXPO 92

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to tell Canadians the truth about the boondoggle known as the Canadian pavilion at the World Exposition in Seville, Spain.

Yesterday I referred to a departmental document that said that the budget would rise by \$10 million. Now it appears that the actual rise is even higher, from \$33 million to at least \$46.7 million, a \$13.7 million overrun so far.

I have another document in my possession, also from external affairs, dated October 6, 1989, which shows that the minister's officials knew the construction budget for the pavilion had been underestimated by 50 per cent. This clearly shows that the massive cost overruns plaguing this project are not just the result of unforeseen disasters in the past six months. It has been going on for a year and a half.

Yet at the same time that the government is spending more and more money on a pavilion in Spain which will be demolished at the end of the fair, the external affairs department has said that 306 positions will be cut in the next six months as a result of the federal budget.

I ask the minister responsible to confirm just how much the disposable pavilion will cost and how many jobs in external affairs will have been sacrificed to finance this apparently bottomless pit.

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure to honour a colleague, a compatriot and a great Canadian. This man is a warm and kind friend to many and certainly a friend to all that is right and just in this country.

I am here to praise the man for whom the Canadore College Gerry Weiner Scholarship was named. This scholarship, which will be awarded in perpetuity, and for the first time in the fall of 1991, will serve to recognize the contribution and leadership of a student in the social service program in the area of human rights.