

## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

### REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works responsible for CMHC. In view of the concern being expressed by municipalities about the discontinuance of the community services contribution program, will the minister consider extending the program for at least one or two more years beyond the planned termination date of 1982, to allow projects which are now planned and committed to tender to be completed and so that these municipalities will be able to finish these projects?

**Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works):** Madam Speaker, the government indicated there would be no extension in terms of the funding committed for this program. The funding is scheduled to terminate at the end of March, 1982. I have had submissions, not only from the hon. member but from many municipalities and other hon. members, to the effect that the time committed for the use of these funds be extended. These groups have asked whether that type of proposition would be available. The corporation officials have prepared a submission to the government and to Treasury Board asking them to consider the impact of such an extension of the period of time of payment, bearing in mind we are attempting to free up time and space for new program initiatives starting in March, 1982. If such an extension were granted it would have to be on the understanding that the moneys paid out in 1981-1982 would be reduced accordingly if moneys are paid out in 1982-1983. I am awaiting an answer with respect to that.

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[Translation]

## THE LATE JEAN LESAGE

### HOUSE OF COMMONS TRIBUTE

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Acting Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the late Hon. Jean Lesage.

It is not easy to add any original thoughts to those which have been expressed since last Friday about the former Quebec premier whose passing we all regret.

Everyone has spoken very highly about the long list of reforms effected in Quebec during his term of office. This impressive list covers all fields of public activity and includes social, cultural, legal, administrative and economic areas. I do not intend to repeat this list.

We should note, however, the importance given to economic affairs in these reforms: the creation of Hydro-Quebec, of the deposit fund, of the General Investment Corporation, and so on. A former parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance in Ottawa, Mr. Lesage respected budgets and, during

## The Late Jean Lesage

his six years in office, he remained his own finance minister. He also understood that the development of Quebec should perhaps be first of all an economic development.

[English]

All the reforms he introduced were not necessarily of his own invention. He recognized that first, before others did. He was a wonderful conciliator, a good orchestra leader, and a fine practitioner of the art of the possible. The best ideas in the world, as we all know, are not worth much if not properly channelled into contemporary realities.

Mr. Lesage throughout his life and until the end of it was keen to combine his *Québécoisité* with his Canadianism, his provincial preoccupations with his respect of the central government. Yes, he did want a modern Quebec, but he wanted it in a Canadian federation. Having two eyes, he refused to close one. Having access to two cultural heritages, he refused to ignore the second. Living under two orders of government, he recognized the importance of both. In that, as in many other aspects, he leaves an important message.

[Translation]

In the tribute he paid to Mr. Lesage last Friday, the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) emphasized the importance given by Mr. Lesage to the renewal of the concept of state, the fact that, partly because of him, this concept had acquired a more positive significance in Quebec and even in the rest of Canada, and also the fact that, through Mr. Lesage, the state had become less an impersonal "it" and more a collective "we", and an instrument for action and progress.

Madam Speaker, all governments have a choice to make: laissez-faire—have it done or do it itself. Mr. Lesage, whom I do not consider a theoretician, believed that a balance could be stricken in this respect, and he gave us a good example of such a balance in harmony with his time.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, it was with regret that I learned last Friday of the death of the Hon. Jean Lesage. I would like today to join with the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), and all my colleagues of the House in paying tribute to Mr. Lesage and offering our deepest sympathy to his wife and the other members of his family.

Mr. Lesage had a remarkable political career. After thirteen years on the federal scene, he chose to direct his efforts more particularly toward Quebec. He became the leader of the Quebec Liberal party and premier of his province. Under his leadership, Quebec entered an era of deep change and intensive development, and he himself earned the name of "Father of the Quiet Revolution."

[English]

Jean Lesage will be remembered particularly for the profound and important changes which he introduced, and over which his government presided in the province of Quebec. As the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Pepin) said, Jean Lesage