

Oral Questions

agreement have to go to Treasury Board for approval? Secondly, if Nova Scotia was in total control of these funds, why did the project require approval from the Joint Federal-Provincial Management Committee, which Nova Scotia did not control. Would you tell us that?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, it was because it was part of the agreement of 1977 that the money was to be used for projects in Nova Scotia in that field, not to put asphalt in the riding of the Hon. Member.

Mr. MacKay: There has been no federal asphalt in my riding lately, Madam Speaker, as those Ministers know very well, and they should know that that is a provincial matter.

APPLICATION BY ALASTAIR GILLESPIE FOR FUNDS

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): On January 7, 1981, Madam Speaker, Mr. Gillespie wrote a letter to Phil Read, the Co-Chairman of the Management Committee, in which he said, "I wish to make application for a matching grant of \$1 million". On January 13, 1981, Read replied and said, "The Management Committee agreed in principle to the project to a maximum of forty per cent of the project cost and to an amount not to exceed \$1 million." It just took him six days to get \$1 million. That is a pretty good performance. Can the Minister of Energy elucidate that a little bit and explain why the great haste?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Madam Speaker. It was because both Governments had discussed that before the Management Committee. The Member from Nova Scotia evidently was quite aware of the problem because the first discussion in the spring of 1980, for many weeks, was only with the Nova Scotia Government. At that time Nova Scotia was ready, and according to the agreement, they came to the federal Government to get approval, but all the programs were always initiated in Nova Scotia, and one that was approved was from the riding of the Hon. Member. Nova Scotia felt that it was its program, but in the agreement of 1977 there was a provision that the money was to be approved by a joint board because we wanted to make sure that the money was to be used for oil substitution and not for other provincial purposes.

CONFIDENCE OF FINANCIAL COMMUNITY

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I was wondering if the Minister of Finance, who is now asking this House to approve going to the country for \$19 billion, would not agree with me that the financial community must have a great deal of confidence in the Government if it is expected to lend to the Government \$19 billion by summertime. I would like to know how he felt that the financial community would have that confidence in the Government in view of the Minister's lack of memory as to detail as shown in the Gillespie

matter, or his lack of attention to how his Crown corporations are operated, as shown in the way he supervised Petro-Canada's involvement with lobbying by a former Minister.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I would deplore the allegations made by the Hon. Member at the end of his statement, which are quite wrong.

Mr. Clark: Except the record proves them correct.

Mr. Lalonde: Secondly, I would like to ask my friend whether he can tell me what he was doing on June 3, 1980, or September 12, 1980, or August 15, 1980. If he can answer that question today in the House, right away, by standing up and by telling me what he did that day—

Mr. Crosbie: He was not helping Gillespie that day.

Mr. Lalonde:—I am sure the business community will have great confidence, but to reassure my hon. friend I can tell him that in the last week I have received dozens of phone calls from people in the business community supporting me and supporting the stand I have taken—

Mr. Crosbie: Alastair Gillespie called; Judd Buchanan called.

Mr. Lalonde:—and asking me to carry on.

Mr. Blenkarn: Madam Speaker, I would tell the Minister that it would not be difficult to keep a diary and know where he is going.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE RESIGN

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance is this. Does he not agree that it is most important to a country in serious financial difficulty that the financial community and the business community have total confidence in his ability to manage, and does he not feel that, for the good of the country, he would be better off to resign?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I stated yesterday in this House that politics for me was not the end all and be all, and that I have a lot of other things that are attractive to me.

Some Hon. Members: Go, go.

Mr. Lalonde: If I felt that any good was going to be served, I would have resigned immediately.

Mr. Nielsen: For God's sake, go.

Mr. Lalonde: If I felt that there had been any wrongdoing or any cause for believing that anything wrong had been done, I would not have needed the admonition of my hon. friend. I would have assumed my own responsibilities, without delay, and immediately.