

riding of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington and is here visiting his member of parliament and celebrating his birthday.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PROPOSED LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROGRAM—POSSIBILITY OF OTHER MEASURES TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of Treasury Board. Is the minister prepared to take the House into his confidence with respect to details of the government's federal labour intensive program, which I understand from the minister's office he is releasing to the press later this day, and to tell the House at least what he proposes to tell the press? Perhaps at the same time he might also tell the House whether this is the same program which was announced in this House by the Prime Minister on October 19.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have taken the members of the House into my confidence to some degree by appearing before the miscellaneous estimates committee, at which time there were certain questions asked about it. Indeed, the Minister of Finance announced the program in principle, and in fact described the amount of money to be allocated to the program, in his speech on October 21. I do recognize that there have been other allusions to it. There will be an allocation of \$150 million over the period from now to September 28. The program will be directed on a provincial distribution basis to those areas weighted for high and chronic unemployment. The provincial breakdown will be made available to members in letters going to them this afternoon. Fifteen departments of government will be involved in the program and the hiring which should create about 157,000 man-months of work. I use the term man-months as some jobs should last two or three months and others eight or nine months, so the average will be from five to five and one-half months' duration. If the hon. member wishes to put any other questions I shall be glad to answer.

● (1417)

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that since the program was announced in the House by the Prime Minister on October 19, the number of unemployed has increased by 53,000 and we understand that only 20,000 jobs will be created or one job for every 50 unemployed Canadians, can we expect any other initiatives from the government before the first minister's conference takes place to deal with what is perceived as an emergency

Oral Questions

situation now that winter is approaching with critically high unemployment?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House share the hon. member's concern as expressed on many occasions about the high level of unemployment, particularly in certain regions of the country. The program I have described and which was announced by the Minister of Finance on October 20, augments the \$458 million that this Parliament has approved for expenditure this year on direct job creation and many other programs that the Minister of Employment and Immigration has enunciated and articulated in this House. There are other measures which the Prime Minister and other ministers have described as being in the mill, some to culminate in the series of meetings going on with our counterparts in the provinces and other groups in the country, the details of which will probably come out about February.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I put a further supplementary question given this flip-flop approach to unemployment which is the only thing the government has to offer Canada at the present time, and in light of the fact that allocations under phase 2 of the Canada Works Program were largely influenced by political patronage in that Liberal constituencies received approximately \$300,000 more than Conservative constituencies, given the fact, also, that the hon. member for Renfrew North announced a \$2.5 million program of FLIP for his constituency last Monday, can the minister assure the House that this program will be allocated fairly and impartially and not on the basis of any partisan consideration?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Andras: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I can give the hon. member that assurance. In dealing with his preamble I find it strange that he was given the lead responsibility in this matter for his party since as I recall his constituency enjoys one of the highest allocations under the LIP program.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR PROJECTS ALLOCATED TO QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Following my colleague's question, I would like to ask the minister, given the fact that \$53 million seemed to be intended for the province of Quebec, if he would provide the House with some information, that is to which specific projects will those funds be allocated in the province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct about the amount allocated to the Province of Quebec. I might tell hon. members that the basis for the provincial distribution was the unemployment rate in each province multiplied by the labour force in the province which labour force was adjusted to equalize the