

affairs. It is with regard to the official opening of the Canadian Employment Centre for students in Charlottetown and Summerside. At that time the Minister's office contacted the Hon. Members from Cardigan and Egmont to address the opening ceremonies. If the designated Member was unable to attend, the most senior local official would perform the function on behalf of the Minister.

It is interesting to note that it was specifically stated in the memo that Members of the provincial Parliament were not to be invited, and that the Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament were also not to be invited even if the Canada Employment Centre was in their riding. I feel that this is another example of the pettiness and underhandedness which is so evident in the Liberal Government's practices.

● (1410)

The Canada Employment Centre for Students serves many students of all political, cultural, and denominational beliefs. By discriminating against the people's representative who should have attended the opening ceremonies one cannot help but wonder just how fairly the Employment Centres are to be run. This is a blatant attempt by the Minister to have a higher profile for the Liberal Members and to downgrade the Conservative MPs and provincial MLAs. This is proof positive that the Minister does not have an ounce of common courtesy or decency in his whole being, and he bloody well should be ashamed of himself for being involved in such sleazy tactics.

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SHIPBUILDING

VANCOUVER BID FOR SHARE OF FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I have a letter before me that I have just received from the Vancouver Metal Trades Council which I would like to bring to the attention of the House and the Government. The Council represents 5,000 workers normally employed in the shipbuilding and repair industry in British Columbia, my own Province. I am told the affiliates of the Council report that approximately 60 per cent of them are unemployed.

Yesterday a Dome Petroleum boat, I believe called *Placentia Bay* was launched. Two boats have been built in Canada and four are to be built in Korea. To me this seems ridiculous. We should be building all of this kind of shipping in Canada. In any case, I am told that there are to be bids very shortly on the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program. The Burrard Yards Corporation of Vancouver has put in applications for that program. I realize the Government, has to consider all different regions and all different shipbuilders across the country, but I hope that British Columbia will receive its proportionate share. It is very important for my constituents in Vancouver, many of whom are in the metal trades business, and they would like to work building Canadian ships for use by Canadian companies.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

HOUSING

STATUS OF \$3,000 GRANT PROGRAM

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for housing. I am sure he has been unavoidably detained because I understood he was to be here. I will direct my question, then, to the Acting Prime Minister.

To identify my question for the Acting Prime Minister, it has to do with the \$3,000 grant program concerning which thousands of people are awaiting resolution. Last week the Minister responsible for housing said outside the House that he was going to look into the situation to see what could be done, particularly for those who had applied for the program, and as well with respect to the necessity for extra funding.

We are into another week. Those thousands of people are still waiting to find out what is going to happen to their applications and to their hopes for owning a home of their own. What does the Government intend to do about this situation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I was here last week and I heard the Prime Minister saying exactly what the question is today, that the Minister responsible for housing was going to look at the program and take into account the people who had already made their applications, and he was going to see if there were enough funds for them in the present existing budget. If not, the Minister of Public Works was going to see if he could find some more. The answer really is in the question. I presume the Minister will report on that quite soon.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I think the people have been waiting long enough. The Government has had a weekend to consider this matter. People are still waiting for those homes and that housing. There are not two ways about it, people were led to expect that there would be sufficient money for this program to last until May 31.

FUNDING AND NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, what is the situation with regard to this program? Surely the Prime Minister, or the Minister responsible for housing, who is just coming into the House, can tell us what the situation is; how much money has been committed under the program and how many people have been left out of the program. Can the Minister tell us what the current situation is with respect to this program, and can the Minister responsible for housing bring us beyond last week, which is as far as the Acting Prime Minister has been able to bring us?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I indicated that we would not be in a position before