

travel, accommodation and tuition costs. How were these figures arrived at, was it as a result of a government study or were the figures arbitrarily picked out by someone in the minister's department?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, the new cultural enrichment policy to provide increased opportunities for many Canadians is well appreciated and received by the various ethnic groups in our country, and I can assure the hon. member of that. We arrived at that particular conclusion after many representations made by ethnic groups, and finally it was recommended to us by the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. It was as a result of their recommendation, which we studied, that we came out with the program. It is not an ideal program; we realize that, but it is a start, a beginning. I can assure the hon. member and other members of the opposition that this program is greatly appreciated by all who benefit from it, all good Canadians.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT PRAXIS CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR CO-OPERATION WITH ONTARIO INQUIRY

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it relates to the decision of the attorney general of Ontario to set up an inquiry into the break-in and arson at the offices of the Praxis Corporation in Toronto. I would like to ask the Solicitor General if he will take every step to co-operate with the inquiry in Toronto, and will he make available to the inquiry such things as files from his own office, officers and ministers attached to his office over the years to appear before the inquiry to testify?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the House and to the attorney general of Ontario our desire to co-operate fully with them in the conduct of the investigation which he has referred to the police commission in Ontario.

Mr. Oberle: I would like to ask the Solicitor General if it is the intention of the government to complement the inquiry into the involvement of the various police departments with an inquiry into the involvement of the various political agencies in the whole matter of the extra parliamentary opposition, particularly the involvement of the former solicitor general and the involvement of the committee on security and intelligence headed by the Prime Minister at that time to determine what effect the EPO concept and the letter that the Solicitor General wrote at that time had on the individuals that were named.

Mr. Fox: I am not sure what the hon. member is getting at. If there is any specific matter he wishes to draw to my attention, I will be pleased to have it and examine it.

Oral Questions

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN FEDERAL SHARE OF COST OF HIGHWAY PROGRAM FOR ATLANTIC REGION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it has to do with the \$100 million highway strengthening program in the Atlantic region. The minister is aware that the ministers of highways in those provinces requested something more generous than the 50-50 cost-sharing which was offered by the minister. Has he had a chance to reconsider that decision, and will he be a little more generous in the cost-sharing with regard to the four depressed areas in the country?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): The ministers of highways have raised a number of issues. On most of them I was able to meet their wishes and adjust the program. On this one our position seems to be very reasonable since the highway programs we are talking about are essentially within provincial jurisdiction, and for us to offer 50-50 sharing seems reasonable. I have no change to make in that position.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the fact that one of the badly deteriorated highways is in the province of Newfoundland, in view of the fact that when the government built the Trans-Canada Highway it was on a 90-10 basis, and in view of the depressed state of the economy in Newfoundland, I wonder if the minister would consider for that particular part of the Trans-Canada Highway greater generosity in cost-sharing.

Mr. Lang: I am not sure that a previous generous treatment necessarily ensures its repetition at a later time. It might be difficult, when we are looking at highways from the transport point of view and the cost benefit analysis point of view, to justify different treatment for one province. In our analysis the improvements in these highways do indeed produce an economic benefit which justifies the expenditure. A great part of that benefit goes to the province, and the basic jurisdiction in relation to the highways lies with the province. That is the basis of our view in this matter.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INCARCERATION OF JAMES KENNEDY WITHOUT CHARGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): My question is for the Minister of Justice, and I welcome him back from sunny Vancouver. I should like to refer the minister to my question on Monday at which time the acting Minister of Justice and the second acting minister were both absent, and therefore the Department of Justice was not represented in the House. My question concerns James Peter Kennedy who has been held in jail in Vancouver for over five weeks. I want to refer the Minister of Justice to a letter handed to me yesterday from the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in which he says: