

Oral Questions

contrary to the rule of law. Last week the Minister opened a dish manufacturing plant in southern Ontario. Therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney):

That the Minister of Communications be requested to clarify what Government policy in this area truly is so that Canadians, who are investing hard cash in the manufacture and purchase of these products, will know whether their investment is safe or whether and when they may expect the dish police to come calling.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, over the past few months hundreds of unemployed forestry workers and others in B.C. alone have been cut off regular UIC payments as they entered into the Employment Bridging Assistance Program, and have been forced to wait without incomes for up to six to eight weeks and more while the employment bureaucracy and the Minister just fiddle around. These victims are the latest to be added to the thousands who have to go on welfare or rely on charity while waiting week upon week for the UIC benefits to which they are entitled. I therefore move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton):

That this House present the Emperor Nero Award with dead maple leaf cluster to the Minister of Employment and Immigration in recognition of his continuing foul-ups and fiddling while unemployed Canadians burn, and urge him to stop feeding unemployed Canadians to the lions.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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● (1115)

PUBLIC WORKS

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TENDERS

Mr. Fred King (Okanagan-Similkameen): Madam Speaker, the major theme of the Prime Minister's three messages was trust. Trust is an essential element in democracy. Recently in my area three separate instances have been brought to my attention in which contracts with the Government of Canada have been awarded in circumstances which abuse normal

tendering practices. In consideration of this I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cariboo-Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway):

That this House enjoin the Government of Canada to guarantee that, when inviting tenders for government construction projects, all conditions of tender be scrupulously observed to avoid the inference of political or other unworthy consideration which destroys the spirit of trust of which the Prime Minister spoke and the trust upon which the future unity of our nation is so dependent.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NEW EMPLOYMENT EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

INQUIRY RESPECTING PROVISION OF FULL-TIME JOBS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance has announced the New Employment Expansion and Development Program. He said in his budget speech, and I quote, "It is expected to provide jobs for 60,000 individuals over a period of 18 months". Will those 60,000 jobs be full-time jobs?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have indicated that this is a direct job-creation program and these jobs would be of a temporary nature, at least 20 weeks. But that will depend, obviously, also on the co-operation of industry in many instances. Many of these jobs will be of a permanent nature and will be extended; other jobs that may be created, also in co-operation with the provinces, may be of a permanent nature. That will have to be assessed as the Program develops. The 60,000 jobs I have announced are going to be directly created by that Program. I have not included the indirect job creation that results from any such activity.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, the Minister missed the question but he did tell the House that what was announced by him a couple of days ago, as 60,000 full-time jobs, will in fact be 60,000 20-week jobs; or perhaps there might be something more depending on somebody else doing something. This is a "maybe" program.

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM DETAILS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, let me ask the Minister about the details of this Program. He said in his budget speech that his colleague, the minister on unemployment, "will announce shortly the details of the new Program". Let me ask the Minister if those details are ready. Does the Government know what it is proposing?