

Inquiries of the Ministry

members of the business community, and has he satisfied himself that there is no potential conflict of interest? In particular, has he investigated the circumstances surrounding grants in 1971 totalling \$6.9 million to Noranda Mines Limited, Gaspé Copper Mines Limited and National Sea Products Limited, whose executive officers are members of the advisory board?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker, because when we made regulations concerning this matter, this aspect held our attention for quite a long time. It is very difficult to find businessmen who are not, at a certain time, directly or indirectly concerned with requests addressed to our department.

So, we made a regulation under which people who are directly or indirectly concerned with a request submitted to the department or one of its decisions are not to take part in the discussions of the committee, and have nothing to say concerning the decision.

[English]

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, would the minister be willing to have this matter referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Development so that it could receive thorough study and examination, particularly in view of the very glib manner in which the department has dealt with the matter?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I am not very much concerned with this, but I believe that votes will be submitted to the House and referred to the committee. I shall then be prepared to answer all questions. There is actually nothing to make a fuss about and there is no hushed scandal.

[Later:]

[English]

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, a moment or so ago the minister indicated that those who were representing management on the advisory board would not of course be involved in the granting of loans. Looking over the record of the advisory board, may I ask whether the minister is aware that Mr. Kendall Cork, who is on that board, indicated that he did not miss any meetings and yet Noranda Mines Limited got several millions of dollars in grants when he was vice-president?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I should like it to be clearly established that the committee takes no decision with regard to government subsidies. Decisions are made within the department by duly authorized personnel. The committee merely exercises a sort of supervision. That is all, period.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—PAYMENT OF GRANTS
TO POLITICAL ORGANIZERS

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

[Mr. Burton.]

Do the regulations he mentioned a while ago include a provision forbidding the granting of subsidies, through the local initiatives program, to political organizers who are playing politics?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, this does not fall within my jurisdiction.

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REFUSAL OF CERTAIN
PROJECTS—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can he tell us whether or not it might not be wise to look into the application of the local initiatives program seeing we are told that a large number of projects are turned down for lack of funds, and that urgent achievable projects should be accepted?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I had some difficulty in hearing the question. I shall take it as notice and reply directly to the hon. member.

[English]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—GRANTS TO GROUPS
ASSOCIATED WITH ROCHDALE COLLEGE

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister in view of the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and his parliamentary secretary. At the first opportunity will the Acting Prime Minister arrange to have a statement made on motions giving all details of the local initiatives program grants to groups and/or projects either located in or associated with Rochdale College in Toronto totalling \$277,000, with particular reference to the grant of \$25,900 to a group known as The Process of the Final Judgment for the alleged purpose of "expanding a program to test the resources of young people," when this group is widely reported to promote devil worship with attendant rites and rituals, and also with particular reference to—

Mr. Woolliams: That must be the Liberals.

Mr. Nesbitt: —a group known as Crunch—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask the question quickly. It seems to me that questions ought to be shorter than the one the hon. member is presenting to the House now. He should indicate what the question is as succinctly as possible.

Mr. Nesbitt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I could not hear Your Honour as there was certain extraneous conversation.

Mr. Speaker: I am inviting the hon. member to put his question.