

*Oral Questions***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD***[English]***THE BUDGET****SPECIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM—SELECTION OF PROJECTS**

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. He has said that more than 100 projects have been selected for the Special Recovery Capital Projects Program and that "earth will be moved, steel will be rigged and concrete will be poured" this spring or early summer. Would the Minister tell Canadians what projects have been selected and where they will be built? Can he please tell unemployed Canadians when and where they might look for work?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Yes, Madam Speaker. We will be very happy to proceed with the announcement of these various projects in the next very short while. The Minister responsible for economic development is in charge of that particular program. He is in the process of proceeding to the ultimate consultations and discussions with the Departments concerned. As soon as the announcements are ready to be made, I am sure the Minister will be very happy to announce those projects as they are being processed.

Mr. Nielsen: Why wait for spring? Do it now.

TIMING OF APPROVAL FOR PROJECTS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also addressed to the Minister of Finance. I asked him the question because we cannot find much evidence that such a list is actually in existence. There has certainly been no consultation with the Provinces about projects of this magnitude. We would like the Minister to produce this list of projects that he says have been selected and are in the advanced planning stage. We want him to announce now where they are, so that we can put Canadians back to work.

The Minister also said in his budget that there would be no red tape and no delays in initiating the capital projects because they are being put on a "fast track". Yet the Minister's own budget papers state that projects will be physically under way within six months of approval, that is, as late as October, and will be only 60 per cent completed in two years.

How many of those projects have actually been approved and we can expect to be in place in six months, and what does the Minister plan on doing with the 110,000 unemployed Canadians who could be working on those projects between now and October?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have said that 70 per cent, not 60 per cent, of the money provided for those projects would be expended in the next two years. Again, the Minister responsible for economic development is going to be in a position to speak on this subject, I hope in the course of next week, to give more details as to how

the program will be implemented and proceed to the announcement of projects that can be started in very shortly. As I said, as soon as he can do it, having finished his consultations he will be able to announce those programs and will be able to ensure they are begun on time, on schedule, and are proceeded with very expeditiously. I can assure the Hon. Member that I have personally seen the list that is being considered. I hope that the Minister will be able to proceed with the official announcements very, very shortly.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Table it.

NEED PROGRAM—DELAY IN CREATION OF JOBS

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my final supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. We are having an awful lot of trouble, as we have explained in this House, trying to cope with the changing numbers the Minister keeps giving us. I would refer him to page 7 of his own budget papers for the 60 per cent figure that I used.

This Government's track record in fast tracking is not impressive if you look at programs like the NEED Program. Last October the NEED Program was announced as an urgent plan to spend \$500 million to create 60,000 jobs. Yet the budget papers show that, by the end of the fiscal year, NEED has spent only \$30 million, that is only 6 per cent of the total, to create about 6,000 jobs. With that kind of record, what faith can unemployed Canadians have that the Government can deliver all these promised jobs? Again, I submit that the Minister has not told us when he is going to put those 110,000 people to work in the next few months.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member complained in her question that we had not consulted the provinces. One of the reasons why the implementation of the NEED Program was delayed for some time was the need to consult the provinces, and I am thinking especially of my own province, Quebec. We had to wait many weeks before getting some answers from the provincial Government, and even afterwards the Quebec Government changed its mind concerning the eligibility of municipalities to this most worthwhile program. This caused certain delays in the implementation of the NEED Program.

As for the programs announced in my budget, in general, they come exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Canadian government. In certain cases, the programs call for the involvement of some provinces, but on the whole, the amounts to be spent come under the jurisdiction of the Canadian government and will not be affected by delays such as those feared by the Hon. Member.

In addition, my budget speech underlined the fact that the Government has created a task force of public servants and a special committee responsible for ensuring that there is no