

a grant like that in the British system, I have no doubt but that the Minister would have to resign; but not in our system.

● (1350)

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the grants or to the legitimate process using civil servants and having the MPs' input where it should be. However, this was a special program and we were not informed about it properly. It was secret and it was the Liberal MPs who benefited. I think it is going to rebound on them. It is going to hurt the programs and the Government.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, I have approximately ten minutes before two o'clock to introduce this topic. I would like to conclude after Question Period.

At the outset I would like to say that I enter this debate more in sorrow than in any sense of anger. There is an underlying current of anger that does exist across the country. Since this issue has arisen of job creation and the political manipulation in which the Government has been involved, particularly the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Members of the Cabinet, I have had the opportunity of travelling back to my constituency and across a good part of the country. Having been involved in a small way with respect to raising some of these issues on the floor of the House of Commons, I can tell Hon. Members that I have been absolutely astounded at the sense of indignation that has been expressed to me as a Member of Parliament in coffee shops, airports, airplanes and in my riding with respect to the callous, cynical and manipulative tactics that are being adopted by the Government with respect to so-called fast-track capital projects and job-creation projects. To put it in the most complimentary way that I can, they have been put together in a slap-dash, haphazard and political way.

The New Democratic Party has been preoccupied for some months now with an attack on our Party in particular. It has spent its energy and time in an attack on my Leader and the policies of my Party.

An Hon. Member: What policies?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I must compliment the members of the New Democratic Party today. I am prepared to compliment them once in a while when there is a germ of perception. Finally, after many months, they have tried to train their guns on the Liberal Government of the country. I compliment them for bringing forward this resolution. Although we have some difficulty with it, we will in fact support the proposition being put forth because there are elements in here which are compelling. Unfortunately, rather than being able to spend our time debating in the best way possible in order to create jobs, there has been an element in terms of the Government's activity on job creation that has given a nasty turn to this debate. That is with respect to the manipulation, patronage and porkbarrel slush fund that is being operated to the detriment of people who want to work but are unable to obtain employment.

Supply

I understand that the New Democratic Party has a philosophical problem with respect to the patronage issue. They are very much in favour of government intervention. As the Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) has said, they would do exactly the same as the Government. They would hand out dollars where they, in their own wisdom, think these dollars would do the most good. They do not specify whether it is the most good politically or with respect to employment. One of the difficulties in terms of the policies of the Liberal and New Democratic Parties is that the funds are not allocated on an equitable and fair basis and directed toward the people they are intended to help, the unemployed of our country. My colleague from St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) brought forward policies and positions that we as a Progressive Conservative Government would take with respect to directing the assistance to areas where there is more possibility for job creation, such as the small business sector. Canadians understand that.

I would like to address myself to the element of the motion with which I am particularly concerned and with which literally thousands of Canadians have expressed concern. That is with respect to the last part of the New Democratic Party's motion that the allocation of job-creation funds has been done in a partisan fashion and not based upon local employment levels.

One of the things I have noticed with respect to this debate is a very simple fact of life. The Liberal Government is so terribly sensitive about allowing any of its back-benchers to get up to address this issue so that we can question them that it has prohibited members of its Party from standing in their place and participating in this debate. The Government has had one Minister involved in the course of this two-hour debate. Not one back-bencher has the courage of his convictions to stand up and participate in this debate and be subject to criticism and questioning on the part of the Opposition. That is an indication of precisely what is wrong with our job-creation programs and our Government today.

In the partisan and political forum of the House of Commons I am not going to rely on quoting my colleagues with respect to what has happened in the Liberal Party. I am going to go directly to the fount. I am going to refer to the executive of the Liberal Party of Canada. It had a commission established under the president, Iona Campagnolo. The commission's mandate was to examine some of the problems the Liberal Party has been experiencing in the country and its lack of support across the country. That commission was established under Gordon Gibson, a British Columbia Liberal. It was established as a result of resolutions passed at the 1982 Liberal convention.

I do not know if the name Alfred Apps strikes a responsive chord. Alfred Apps is the president of the Young Liberal Association. He is the man who brought forward a resolution at the national Liberal convention which, in effect, slammed the Liberal Party. This resolution was given overwhelming support by the rank and file of the Liberal Party. The resolution condemned powerful backroom, non-accountable, non-