

a set amount of funding. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the Minister should be aware that the essence of that allegation is that the Government is using funds allocated for unemployed people for its own political purposes. That is a very grave allegation. Can the Minister assure the House today that all Hon. Members of this House, and their unemployed constituents, were treated openly, fairly, and equally in the administration of the Special Employment Initiatives Program?

● (1440)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in the Budget of June, 1982, a Special Employment Initiatives Program was proposed as part of various other job-creation programs. Additional funds were provided for that Program in April, 1983. The amounts were spelled out at the time, and the administration of the Program was under the Minister of Employment and Immigration. All the funds expended were spent under existing government programs and under the rules governing those particular programs. I am advised that the funds have been allocated on the basis of requests and needs that were expressed for expenditures under those various programs in various Departments under the authority of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, in order to reduce unemployment. I am also advised that funds were expended in all Provinces and all Territories, and in constituencies represented by Conservative Members or NDP Members as well as constituencies represented by Liberal Members.

#### ACCESS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO PROGRAM FUNDS

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, it is exactly those rules that are under scrutiny both by *Maclean's* and Members of this House and the public. With great respect, the Minister did not answer the question. He well knows it is a matter of public record that \$138 million of the \$150 million in that program was already allocated by November, and it was not until February that the Government sent the circular to all Members of the House.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that Members on the government side, Liberal Members, had access to that fund long before Members on this side? Indeed, they had three months in which to get money from that program, long before we did. Why did the Minister and his Government keep Members on this side in the dark about a program which was supposed to be for unemployed people, not unemployed Liberals?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the more the Hon. Member speaks, the more he shows that he is indeed in the dark. This program was announced in June of 1982. Additional funds were provided in April of 1983. The amounts were quite clearly spelled out, and Members of Parliament from all Parties were obviously quite free to make representations to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, or other Ministers, if they had projects they wanted to propose. As a matter of fact, I am sure there are Members on the opposite side of the House who have made representations on various programs to the Minister of Employment and

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Immigration or other Ministers. As I said, funds have been expended in all Provinces and in ridings held by Conservative or NDP Members, as well as by Liberal Members. The only thing I can say is that if the Hon. Member was in the dark until February 1, he is not watching after his constituents very well.

#### REQUEST THAT MINISTER PUBLISH LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, it is pretty clear that the Minister is continuing his record of the past few weeks. I have in my hand here a letter from the Minister of Employment and Immigration sent on February 1, advising Members on this side about this. Members of the Minister's own caucus received that months before. The Minister can clear the matter up if he is willing to make a clean breast of it now by making public and tabling in this House a list of all the projects allocated funds under that program. That is all he has to do, and he can quit making politics out of people who are unemployed.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am impressed by the Hon. Member's appeal to quit making politics. I remind my hon. friend that what he has in his hand is a document which says quite specifically: "Attached is the information on the Special Employment Initiatives criteria that was sent to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration following a November 29 meeting." My friend should have been aware of the criteria a long while ago.

**Mr. Crombie:** Make it public.

**Mr. Lalonde:** As far as the Hon. Member's request is concerned, I remind him, if he bothers to check the records of this House, he will find there is a request by his colleague from St. John's East for such a list—

**Mr. Crombie:** Four months ago.

**Mr. Lalonde:**—and that the Minister of Employment and Immigration, who is absent from the House today for an important meeting, is preparing the documentation and will make it public in due time in answer to the request put forward.

**Mr. Crombie:** Four months ago.

#### REQUEST THAT LIST BE TABLED

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I made that request in committee on November 24. I asked for the criteria and for the list of projects. I received the criteria, as a member of the committee, on January 26. The officials who were there at that time told us that they would make the criteria and the list of projects available within a few days. The criteria were not available to Members on this side until January 26, and we still do not have the list of projects which were approved last November.