

Adjournment Debate

say, but we have estimated 60 per cent according to our best estimates. However, give us a chance to continue the program a little longer. We may have better defined answers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Progress reported.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS—GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have the attention of all hon. members who are in the House on a matter of some concern to the city from which I come, the city of Vancouver in the province of British Columbia. I address my remarks especially to government members because in the city of Vancouver we desperately need—I was going to say we need a new art gallery, but really we need an art gallery which would do credit not just to the city of Vancouver and the surrounding neighbourhood but to the whole of the province of British Columbia.

The reason I would like to take hon. members into my confidence is that, unlike any other city, at least as far back as I can remember—and I have looked into it—the people within the province of British Columbia went out and raised over \$4½ million from 15,000 subscribers to help build a new art gallery. In fact it was to help move the art gallery from the old, inadequate premises into a courthouse which is going to be abandoned and which is an historic building.

This is a community which went out and raised the money first and then went to the province, to the city, and now to the federal government. While the party I represent was the Government of Canada, we agreed to match the \$4½ million which was pledged by the 15,000 people who raised it, and that money—and I want all hon. members to pay very close attention to this—is conditional upon the federal government's coming through.

This is not the first time a city has received funding from the federal government. In a letter to the editor of the Vancouver *Sun* by Duncan Campbell, the president of the Vancouver art gallery, he pointed out that the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts received a \$3.4 million grant and that the Art Gallery of Ontario received a \$6 million grant. There have been other grants made. This is not something the city of Vancouver is asking for which has not been done in other places.

What we have had recently is a not very satisfactory but, in fact, a rather unseemly situation. The Secretary of State (Mr.

Fox) says that, "If only you terrible Tories had not tinkered with Loto Canada, there would be lots of money for the art gallery." I have to say, with great respect, that whatever was done with Loto has nothing to do with the principle involved here.

The other day when I asked a question in this House, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts), formerly a secretary of state, indicated—and it is recorded in *Hansard*—how very much he wanted this to go ahead, but then he went on and said that somehow or other the former government, which was committed to get the money, had blown it by daring to alter the Loto arrangements. Look, it is just not fair and it is just not reasonable.

● (2205)

The art gallery in Vancouver will be the art gallery for British Columbia against a backdrop, by the way, of a situation where we cannot even exhibit all of the works of Emily Carr because there is just not a place for them. The time has come for this, and I must appeal to members on the government side to give us a break and speak directly to the Secretary of State on this matter. It is just not good enough to go out there and say that because of changes in Loto there will be no money for art galleries in western Canada. That is just not good enough.

I underline the fact that we are not asking for something we have not gone out and made a real effort to match in terms of funds. If any of the members opposite come from cities or communities which would go out and raise over \$4 million from 15,000 people, I would be very surprised.

Because this must be concluded by the end of this month, we have already received a very ominous letter dated May 9 from Mr. McGann, the Executive Director of the Vancouver Foundation, saying that the \$250,000 pledged by the Vancouver Foundation—if the government cannot make up its mind soon—will have to be withdrawn. It will happen with other donations. I ask members on the government side to listen to my plea. Surely to goodness a community which has the gumption, determination and interest to put that amount of money up from the private sector should be given a break. We are not asking for something that has not been done in other places, but we are asking for something on one condition—we went out and raised the money first. That has been done in other places.

In other places the federal government has been asked for up front money. In this case the local community has put the money up front. I know there are many issues which cross partisan lines, but I am glad to see that there are a number of members on the government side tonight and I ask them to take this matter up immediately in caucus. Caucus will be on Wednesday morning. I ask hon. members to give use a break on this matter and raise the matter there. It is something that is needed in British Columbia, it is something that is appropriate, and it is something on which our own people have already made very significant pledges.