

*Supply*

there are a few trappers. I wonder could these people qualify for LEAP money?

In my area we also have a lot of Indian reserves. The people in the Indian reserves are generally the first ones out of work. Could the minister take a close look to see if he could help them in any way?

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Chairman, I can reply to the hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap by saying that yes, both trappers and natives, Indians and Metis, can qualify for the LEAP program.

Indeed, I think in his part of the country, the interior of British Columbia, the LEAP program is ideally suited to serving the needs of those communities, for two reasons. First, it is related to employment that is meaningful. In a sense it is related to economic assistance in projects that produce real goods and services and make a contribution to the economy and are not simply make-work projects.

Second, and perhaps equally important, it provides a vehicle for long-term employment, up to three years. It is not the "start-stop" type of operation which has plagued government job creation at the federal level in that part of the world for so long. I would encourage the hon. member through his local office at the Canada Employment Centre to make contact on behalf of his constituents to provide whatever assistance he may seek.

I may take this opportunity to answer some of the concerns that the lengthy speech of my friend opposite prevented me from doing. I may say that I find it surprising that the hon. member for Papineau seems to take objection to the notion that lists of projects that are valid and legitimate projects forthcoming from a region, some with the concurrence of MPs and some without their concurrence, having been assessed by project officers of mine, should somehow be kept in secret.

I want to make the hon. member an offer to indicate the openness of approach, and consistent with the position I indicated to him, that I take all the information I can get. I seek all the advice I can get. If the defeated candidates in the riding of Joliette or in the riding of Brome-Missisquoi or in the riding of Lotbinière wish to come to my office or to go through the hon. member for Joliette—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Atkey:** —to obtain the information, I would be delighted to make the projects from that particular constituency available for their information and to invite their recommendations. I say this in all seriousness, Mr. Chairman. I think that a person who has run for office in a constituency, whether he be Conservative, Liberal, Creditiste, or NDP, knows a little bit about the constituency from which an application may come. As long as we have a Canada Works program—and this is the last phase—that is based on constituency allocation and is designed for projects that will be useful to the community to provide employment in the community, I am going to seek advice from every single source which cares to give me advice. I think that is consistent with the philosophy of the program

[Mr. Cameron.]

and I make no apology for having sought advice from a great many sources.

It is interesting that the hon. member for Papineau should seek to give me a lecture on the art of patronage.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Why not? He knows a lot about it.

**Mr. Atkey:** I am tempted to say that he should be a good teacher in his own right. I only have to make reference to the very successful career of one of his own friends and assistants who, with the assistance of the hon. member when he was a minister, had a rather meteoric ride in the public service of Canada in a way in which I would never suggest was patronage, but nevertheless reflected the very close interest and assistance of the hon. member when he was a minister. The gentleman to whom I made reference was a former member of this House in the period 1968 to 1972. On his defeat in 1972 he became an executive assistant to the minister where he trained for the next election, which he fought and lost in a Toronto constituency in 1974. I am sure there was no element of patronage in this. For his efforts he was given the position of vice-chairman of the Farm Credit Corporation. He served in that position for a period of three years. Not to be outdone by that particular effort, the same individual was promoted in 1978 to chairman of the Egg Marketing Board.

**An hon. Member:** The farmer's friend.

**Mr. Atkey:** The same individual carried through with the assistance of the minister right up until one month ago when, for some strange reason, through some happy consequence of events, the true mettle of that gentleman—the friend of the former minister—was found out. Not only could he not get along with the board of directors of the Egg Marketing Board, but he could not get along with the government, for reasons which are still strange to me. I suspect it may have had something to do with his salary, but I do say it is exceedingly strange that the hon. member opposite should lecture me, a newcomer to this House, on the subtle art of patronage.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Atkey:** Let me get back to unemployment and assisting the unemployed people of this country.

It is funny that the hon. member makes the same mistake as did one of his predecessors, the hon. member for Blainville-Deux-Montagnes who indicated that this government had put forward no programs to assist the unemployed. I ask him the same question I asked the hon. member for Nickel Belt: have you ever heard of a LEAP program? This is the Local Employment Assistance Program. It is just a small amount of money, \$18 million this year, \$12 million next year, which is there to assist the people who need it. I do not know whether any of that LEAP money is going into the Papineau riding. I suggest a great proportion is going into the province of Quebec. Quite apart from that, I wonder if the hon. member could tell me in last year's Canada Works allocation what