

Oral Questions

position . . . If only his colleague would leave him alone, perhaps he would understand the situation! The Hon. Member should understand that the Tariff Board has already ruled and that we are not collecting any money because we know there is a possibility of disagreement, that in fact there is disagreement between both parties concerning the interpretation of the Tariff Board ruling. We have asked the transport company involved to appeal its case before the Tariff Board and we will not collect any money until the ruling is out.

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[English]

FINANCE

SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROGRAM—LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. As he may know, on November 25 at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, a commitment was made by officials of the Department of Employment and Immigration to make public a list regarding job-creation projects in the Special Employment Initiatives Program. Indeed, it was indicated at the committee that that information would be coming forward in a matter of days. That was in November. The fact of the matter is that the information did not come forward on those specific projects. That is why my colleague, the Hon. Member for St. John's East, in January asked again in the House in written form for a list and information on the projects. The information is still not available.

Why are the Prime Minister and his Government refusing to provide the specific information on those projects so that the list can be made available and the Government can live up to a commitment which it made 2.5 months ago?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member talks about a commitment made in November. I must confess that I was not a member of that committee. I do not know who made the commitment. If it was an official, as I understand from the questioner, then indeed the work should be well advanced on it.

I referred yesterday to a request on the *Order Paper* made less than three weeks ago, if my memory is correct, on which work is being done. The Minister, who is attending the OECD meetings in Paris this week, will be in the House on Monday, and I am sure he will be able to give a precise date on which the list of all job-creation projects, which have gone forward under the various programs put forward by the Minister in his Budget, can be produced.

Mr. Crombie: I hope the Prime Minister will bring it to the Minister's attention. I have been through this route once before in the previous 1982-83 allocation when I asked the Minister and the Government for a specific answer on projects

in that program. It is now 15 months later, and I have not received the answer yet. That is why we have concern.

REQUEST THAT INFORMATION BE MADE PUBLIC

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister remind the Minister that we are talking about funds for unemployed people and that it is very important the information be made public. The public and those people have a right to know. Will he give the House an undertaking that the information which is now available to the officials in that Department will be given the political okay so that it could be made public? Will he give that undertaking?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the issue is not whether the moneys are being spent for unemployed people. They are. It was, in the Minister's own words, in his Budget. He was fast-tracking these funds.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Indeed, I understand that one of the complaints of the Opposition members has been that most of these funds have been spent before they had a chance to grab them. If that is the complaint—

Mr. Epp: Greasing the Liberal track.

Mr. Trudeau: Well, it is the complaint I have heard from across the aisle in recent days. Much of the money has been spent. Hon. Members want to know where it has been spent. I am telling them that the list is being compiled. The Minister will be in the House on Monday. He will be able to give a date when it can be produced. However, the issue is not whether the funds are going to the unemployed. They are. The Minister was giving examples of projects in the riding of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands. I could give other examples.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Yukon.

Mr. Trudeau: The moneys are going to create jobs for the unemployed.

Mr. Epp: Somebody has the list. Try John next door.

Mr. Trudeau: Therefore, the issue is in what particular ridings, and is it with the right kind of justification. The Hon. Member can make his judgment when he has the list of total government spending of these funds.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): When will that be?