

*Oral Questions*

As far as the recovery program is concerned, no five consultants have been paid \$1.5 million. The consultants required for the program have been hired by the special secretariat and will be called upon to help fast track the program, and will be paid the professional fees which are normally paid in those circumstances. They are retained on a need basis in order to avoid expanding the Public Service.

Most of the projects have already been announced, and they will be taking place across the country. The secretariat is in the process of designating the professionals to undertake those particular activities. We expect that a number of them will be starting this summer and proceeding as planned during the course of this year and early next year.

As for the total number of jobs that will be created, I indicated before in answer to similar questions that I would not speculate on the specific number of jobs. We will spend, as the Hon. Member knows, over \$600 million this year alone, as part of the \$2.4 billion program. The number of jobs created directly and indirectly by such a program will be in the tens of thousands. Exactly how many, I cannot help the Hon. Member.

• (1125)

## STRATEGY OF PROGRAM

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, with all due respect, the Minister has added even further confusion to the confused statements uttered by the Minister of State for Economic Development as quoted in yesterday's press.

I would ask the Minister of Finance to listen to what the Minister said yesterday and then respond to my question. Perhaps he will see the logic, because I cannot. On the one hand the Minister of State for Economic Development said that he could not give an estimate on jobs. On the other hand he said, "The program was not designed as a job creation program." That is rather bizarre. Finally he said, "It will eventually create tens of thousands of jobs." Perhaps that is good Liberal planning. If they sit down and devise a program that is not intended to create jobs, may be that is the only way we will get jobs from those guys.

Will the Minister tell us the definitive, coherent strategy that the Government has developed vis-à-vis this program? Is it intended to create jobs and, if so, when will we get them, and in what sectors of the economy?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I have difficulty believing that the Hon. Member is serious in his question and his reasoning. It is rather flabbergasting. I do not know where he was during the last two weeks when he was not in the House but, frankly, he did not come back in a very helpful mood.

The program is a \$2.4 billion program that has been presented as an acceleration of planned investment by the Government of Canada for enhancement of the infrastructure that will be required in this country to make the economy more competitive, efficient, and thereby capable of creating more

jobs in the private sector. It will put us in a position to support a growing economy.

Obviously, if we spend over \$2 billion on developing the infrastructure of the country it will create tens of thousands of jobs. There is no doubt about that.

The Minister responsible has indicated that the first objective of the program is to provide a better infrastructure in this country by accelerating expenditures planned by the federal Government. At the same time tens of thousands of jobs will be created.

I would remind the Hon. Member of one example. Yesterday we received tenders on the construction of icebreakers that have been planned for years. These tenders are before Treasury Board. They will be examined and, as soon as they are processed, those tenders will be decided upon. This will create jobs in the shipyards of our country.

There are more projects of this nature taking place everywhere. In the meantime I would invite my hon. friend's Party at least to let the Crow legislation go to committee.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

## CONSULTANTS' REMUNERATION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I remind the Minister that it was not anyone on this side but he who described it in his budget puffery as a special recovery program, an accelerated spending program, and a fast track program. I say to him that ordinary people interpret that to mean jobs now and not two or three years down the road. He comes back to the House today and still talks about Treasury Board meeting to consider submissions. That is like waiting for Godot. It may be another five years before we get action.

Let me ask the Minister about the people who have jobs—the five consultants. Will he at least tell us what the Government plans to pay these five consultants? They are receiving \$1.5 million. Do we divide that by five? That is quite substantial. Will he tell us what their daily rates are, because surely the people of this country have a right to know?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, again I find it amazing to hear the Leader of the New Democratic Party advocating that we do away with the public tender process on large expenditures. We have received tenders for the construction of ships. Thanks to the fast tracks process, within two months of the budget announcement we have been able to have tenders submitted on specific shipbuilding projects. These are being examined at the present time. The announcement should come very shortly.

With respect to the Coast Guard we have planned \$790 million of expenditures on shipbuilding in the next period. This will mean that jobs will be created for Canadian workers in all parts of the country. The consultants are engineers who will help us speed up the process and make sure that the jobs will be created as fast as possible. As far as the specific expenditures are concerned, they will be on a professional basis and