

Matane, he said that the fact that someone has been a Conservative candidate should not stop him from submitting a project. Nobody ever denied anyone, even a defeated Conservative candidate, the right to submit a project, but what the hon. member for Matapédia-Matane wanted to know from the minister, and the minister did not answer him, is whether it is true that that Conservative candidate submitted a project for over \$200,000, that the project was cut by Department of Employment and Immigration officials to at most \$100,000 and following pressures made by that Conservative candidate, was going to be given the full amount in spite of and against the advice of his departmental officials. That is a very specific question, and yet the minister would not answer.

Once again, I put this on the same list of overwhelming facts that allow us to question the good faith, the good administration of that program. I add that to the unexplained abolition of advisory committees; I add that to the non-denial of lists of projects in every riding being sent to defeated Conservative candidates; and I add that to the desire of the minister to sweep that under the carpet today, and to try not to give straight answers to the legitimate questions put to him. I believe this program has been too important in the past for it to be so seriously compromised by a new administration.

Mr. Chairman, you will remember that when the Conservatives were in the opposition, they blamed the government for not solving the problem of unemployment in this country. They said at that time they were prepared to take over, they had all sorts of projects in mind to fight unemployment efficiently. Well, they are now in power. They have formed this government for over six months, and curiously, those people when they were sitting over here on the left of the Speaker, were full of ideas and projects. Since they have formed the government and sat to the right of the Speaker, they no longer seem to have any ideas, any projects, any bright ideas about solving the problems of unemployment in this country. The facts are there, Mr. Speaker. Since that party formed the government, no new job-creation program has been launched in this country. Some programs in effect under the previous Liberal government have been cut. A program which I find as important as the on the job training program has been cut by the Conservative government. Other important programs have experienced substantial budgetary cuts, such as the Canada Works program.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that this arbitrary decision of the Progressive Conservative government to cut off the minimum funds made available to every constituency in Canada is unfair to some Canadians living in constituencies that have not as much unemployment as in others, but where there is surely some hardship and problems and where a program such as the Canada Works program could be quite effective.

All allowances have been cut in my constituency of Papineau. For a few years we had been receiving an average of \$400,000 to \$450,000 a year enabling hundreds of individuals

to work, and especially several hundreds of others to receive some care or services which would not have otherwise been provided.

The minister tells us that the Canada Works program does not meet his criteria as a permanent job-creation program. He tells us we have to trust the private sector which should replace the state as a provider of stable employment in our market economy. I say to the minister that he erred when he cut, as he did, the Canada Works program in 33 Quebec ridings, and in particular, in the riding of Papineau, because all sorts of people were benefiting from its advantages, people who now live under the threat of no longer receiving those advantages, and who cannot bank on private enterprise for the same services.

I am thinking in particular of a project which, last year, got some \$30,000 for a social, cultural and family centre designed to enable people to take warm meals to the aged in their homes, to help them with their housecleaning, and give them a bit more comfort and assistance than they normally get. Private enterprise will never offer that type of service. Private enterprise will never replace the Canada Works program to dispense that kind of help.

Yet the Canada Works program assistance was drastically reduced in the riding of Papineau, depriving hundreds of senior citizens of that very interesting and important service, which not only helped them but also gave employment to a score or more persons in my riding.

There is another project, and I shall close on that note, Mr. Chairman, which deals with the re-integration of the alcoholic in his work environment, this one outside my riding. The Montreal AAA received, thanks to the Canada Works program, a substantial amount to perform essential work in that field; it may no longer receive any grants since the program was cut in my riding; not one single penny has been spent in Papineau because of the inhuman, irresponsible and unacceptable attitude of the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

● (1630)

[English]

The Chairman: The time of the hon. member has expired. The hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap.

Mr. Cameron: Mr. Chairman, I was beginning to think I was going to get blown right by five o'clock. However, I do want to ask a couple of questions of the minister. First, I will describe my riding a little bit because I know the minister has not seen it. It is a riding consisting of about 200 miles north and south, and about 175 miles east and west. The main centre is Kamloops. While the citizens of Kamloops can stand on their feet at all times and expect no help, I do have in my outlying ridings many small communities. People living in these communities work for the main in the logging industry, sometimes they do a little prospecting in the summer, and