

● (1430)

PROVISION OF PROGRAM CRITERIA TO MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENT

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday outside the House the Minister was quoted as saying, in reply to a question from the press as to why the \$300 million Special Initiatives Employment fund had not been advertised:

If we had we would have raised expectations and been flooded with applications we couldn't deal with.

Yet that is precisely what the Minister did in the case of the Canada Works Program which had half of what the Special Employment Initiatives Program had, currently \$164,144,000. Yet each Member of Parliament received an information kit. Advertisements went out across the country to all the daily newspapers, encouraging applications. The private sector was encouraged to get involved, to the extent that millions and millions of dollars worth of applications that could not possibly be dealt with came in from all constituencies. Why the different standard? Why could this program not be advertised? Why could Members of Parliament not be given details on criteria and how to deal with them?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has referred to the Canada Works Program. The funding for the Canada Works Program is far more extensive than the funding which is available under the Special Employment Initiatives Program. Part of that Canada Works funding goes on the basis of constituency allocations to Hon. Members, as the Hon. Member knows. I think I would stand by the statement which he has cited which, more or less, I think corresponds to what I said, that if an extensive advertising publicity campaign had been undertaken the only result would have been to generate expectations which could not possibly have been fulfilled.

There is lots of evidence that members of the public, municipalities, and mayors of towns and cities across the country were fully aware of the program, because they stimulated a whole variety of applications for it. There is not a need for the kind of publicity and information program which the Hon. Member now seems to be urging us to carry through.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, there is a basic contradiction here. On the one hand the Minister is encouraging applications for the Canada Works Program, thereby generating expectations that cannot possibly be fulfilled. On the other hand he is suppressing and hiding a program that is worth twice the value. How do you explain that?

## AMOUNT OF UNUSED FUNDS

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister. There is a discrepancy in the total number of applications that were tabled in the House a few days ago and what the Minister claims was the total. The total, according to the Minister, was \$207 billion,

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but according to what was tabled in the House it only added up to \$184 million. Can the Minister tell us where is the other \$27 million in applications?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have not done the adding procedure which I gather the Hon. Member and his staff have done. To the best of my knowledge we have provided the list of projects to the funding of \$207 million. There may be some discrepancy as a result of unallocated funds, or on the basis of administrative costs. I suppose it is also possible that in trying to prepare the material as quickly as possible for Members of the House something may have gone wrong. I will try to check the figures and see what the explanation is, if there is one.

## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO NOVA SCOTIA RIDINGS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It is interesting to note that in Nova Scotia there are no unemployed in the six Conservative ridings, apparently. They are all in the Liberal ridings.

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

**Mr. Forrestall:** On what grounds can the Minister stand in this House and charge Members of the Opposition with disinterest in the welfare of their constituents when, in fact, 95 per cent of the \$28.4 million that went into Nova Scotia went into Liberal ridings? On the basis of that, can the Minister rise in his place to tell us that we were not interested, or will he not now admit that we were not told?

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

**Mr. Lalonde:** You were asleep, Mike.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose I have to say that the hon. gentleman at least cared because there was funding that went into his constituency, something over \$3 million under the Special Capital Recovery Program.

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

**Mr. Roberts:** I think the situation is fairly clear. One after another, and again and again, Members on the opposition side of the House have said: "Why didn't we get our share?" "Why didn't we get our share?" Then they answer the question themselves by saying: "We didn't put forward applications." "We didn't put forward applications." They then say: "Well why didn't we put forward applications?" "Because we did not know about it." "Because we didn't know about it". But then they say they are not negligent, that they are diligent Members of Parliament.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Allan MacEachen took all the money.

**Mr. Roberts:** They studied the budget statements when they came forward. They looked at the program. They knew it was