

province of New Brunswick or in any part of Atlantic Canada which is feeling the crunch of unemployment. The rate has not gone up as fast as it has in Ontario, but it has gone up and will continue to go up.

Let us bear in mind that Atlantic Canada is an area in which the rate usually goes up a little slower at the beginning, gets a little higher before the end and is much slower coming back down. I think that many of these programs have to be directed toward that kind of area. They have a special impact in that area where there are many small employers. So I will take the minister's assurance that the guy who wants one man will be able to get one man and will not have a rigmarole to go through to arrange it but will get help from the department and its staff, because this is one of the problems. The staff of the employment offices are very patient and helpful to those who want 20 people and whose records look good, but somebody who, for the first time, is looking for assistance to employ one man needs a great deal of attention.

● (1710)

I should also like to ask the minister if he has as yet any answers to give me to my question in respect of the guidelines which shall be applied to the make work programs, such as Young Canada Works and the Winter Works program. Will he give consideration to adjusting those guidelines so that communities, service clubs, etc., may be able to make contributions to the community rather than have some of the money spent in a fashion which the community sometimes resents when the community or the service club wants help? I sent the minister a letter containing three or four applications which I suggested should have had top priority consideration. They were rejected out of hand and I wonder, in view of the letter and the examples which I sent him, whether he has given that subject consideration, and can I get an answer to that today?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Chairman, we are tracking through old ground, but let me repeat to the hon. member the following. When it comes to guidelines for the work programs, we plan to reintroduce the constituency advisory system which was abolished by his government, by his caucus and by his members in the last Parliament. That constituency advisory system will allow the hon. member to recommend people from the community who will be able to exercise judgment based upon what is the most valuable project or program within the community. We intend to reintroduce that system to provide a check against the very conditions to which he referred.

The reason he ran into problems in the summer youth program is that his government cancelled that constituency advisory system and therefore there was no way of determining what the local priorities were. The way to try to restore it to some extent was to allow the individual member of Parliament to make the recommendations.

The hon. member has to understand that in his area he got a substantially high proportion of job projects, but he could not get them all because we have far more applications than we have money assigned to the program. There was \$110 million assigned to the program to create 70,000 jobs across Canada.

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They had to be allocated on some degree of equity throughout the width and breadth of this country, and therefore we could not satisfy all the hon. member's particular needs. I did undertake to the hon. member that if he has additional projects and would send them to me, if additional money comes forward because of the cancellation of some program, we would review them. But at the present time we have just received his letter. I would say that if I were allowed to spend less time in the House on this bill, I would have more time to apply to his problem.

**Mr. McCain:** Mr. Chairman, I am reminded of the minister's interjection in response to the debate in respect of the time which was being consumed. A point of order had been raised, and just in case it was not picked up by the electronic media which looks after us, let me point out that he made the interjection across to our chairman in the committee and said, "And you have all you are going to get." Apparently that is precisely the position in which I now find myself, that I have all that I am going to get.

My question to the minister was whether he would consider changing the regulations. I agree that the ministerial advisory board made a major contribution to the selection process, and I am not arguing that. However, neither the member, if he has input which I did not have, nor the ministerial advisory board can get around the regulations as they exist. I ask the minister whether he would inject into the regulations, by ministerial order or otherwise, or would he advise his staff that in the discretionary process of choosing which project shall be accepted the good be extended to the greatest number of people or to the community concerned, and that this should be the guideline on which moneys are awarded.

I submit that the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number is not prevailing in many instances. When boy scout groups or service clubs which need their premises improved are ruled out of order by virtue of a regulation, then I think something is left to be desired in the regulation. I am only asking that the minister consider this, give it his personal attention and understand the problems which the ministerial advisory board will face when it is appointed. The board cannot get by those regulations no matter what may be the personal wishes of the individuals or the board as a group. That has been their experience. I would like to see that regulation changed.

Will the minister take note of my question and give consideration to recommending to the staff that the greatest good to the greatest number of people, the community, the service club or whatever, shall be the guideline, not some of the ideological guidelines which now preclude items which communities need? I submit that all the projects that I submitted to the minister are items and projects which rendered great good to a lot of people for a long time. I think the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence would be particularly interested in two of them because they are church camps where young people have been entertained for some 25 to 40 years. They are in dire financial circumstances and need help. That is ongoing work supported by the churches, and the regulations precluded