

Supply

servants who work in the area. In this program an application comes in. I asked civil servants from where the application comes. They tell me they do not know. No one goes out to the community. I asked how they get the application. I was told that it just comes in to the office. They do an assessment and go through the recommendation phase. They do not do an assessment the way the other programs are assessed. There is one person for these programs for one-half of the constituencies of Metropolitan Toronto. They have 11 people to assess the other programs. The assessment is perfunctory. In fact, it is just sent on to the Minister. From where does the application really come? We know that it comes from the Member of Parliament. In the riding of Eglinton-Lawrence, the present Member sitting in the House makes a recommendation. How convenient.

You see the picture, Mr. Speaker. You have a group of Italian Canadian Liberals forming a society who meet and say they need a storefront office. They put it down on paper. The same group asks for a grant. Then we have the local MP giving them a grant of \$583,000. To do what? There is the nub of the situation.

I have here a letter from the United Way addressed to the Hon. John Roberts. It is dated January 17, 1984 and says that there was no consultation with the community about this "large expenditure of federal dollars". There was little or no consultation with any of the Departments involved.

• (1330)

There is a group called COSTI-IIAS Immigrant Services which has been working 30 years in the Italian community. I believe—I may be wrong—that the present Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) who is sitting in the House at one point in his career was a director of this group. It has a professional board of directors from all across the community. It has a good reputation. It is providing the same social services as that Liberal group is providing. It issued a press release in which it said that this was a duplication of social services. In other words, \$583,000 has been spent to duplicate social services. The Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto on January 17 wrote to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray): "Re: Alliance for Italian Integration and Culture". It expressed its objection to the lack of consultation and wrote:

It is a slap in the face to the social planning organization as well as many other direct service agencies to have this action occur at such a fragile moment in the life of the non-government sector.

I asked the Minister a question about this in the House yesterday. He is quoted in *The Toronto Star* of February 14, in a column by Joe O'Donnell, as saying:

In approving a project or signing it, it was certainly not done on the basis of any connections that the sponsors might or might not have had with any political party.

My question to you, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Canada and to the Liberal Party is: Why was the grant approved? It flies in the face of existing agencies. It is against the present plan for social planning in Toronto. It politicizes the agency. Why was it approved? Here is a concrete example. Who found

out about this? Opposition MPs did not know about these grants. Even the Public Service did not know; it just mysteriously got the applications when they came in. This goes beyond politics. This is corruption; this is a direct example of corruption. The people of Canada should know that this is how their money is being spent.

As the United Way pointed out, it has \$248,000 for new programs in Metropolitan Toronto each year and it gets 71 applications from organizations. Here, out of the blue, is \$583,000 being given to an organization which has no professional expertise in it. I say to the Minister of the Environment, shame! How can you be part of the Metropolitan Toronto caucus? I ask the other Minister across the way, the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. MacLaren), how he can be a part of this. These are two honourable Ministers. How can they take part in this? I do not believe that these two hon. gentlemen are that corrupt.

I have written a letter today to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and I want to read it. It reads:

Dear Mr. Roberts,

I am writing to you concerning the \$583,000 grant to the Alliance Community Services in the constituency of Eglinton-Lawrence in Toronto.

May I just pause to give the unemployment rate in Eglinton-Lawrence. I think it is about 4.4 per cent. In any event, the letter continues:

I am enclosing documentation including:

1. my question to you yesterday in the House of Commons;
2. the Letter Patent of the Canadian Alliance for Italian Integration and Culture;
3. a "Discussion Paper on Integration and the Italian Community's Relations with the Liberal Party";
4. proposal for a job creation program in the social services field etc., submitted by the Canadian Alliance;
5. the Alliance's pamphlet from their storefront office;
6. letters from the United Way of Greater Toronto and from the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto objecting to the grant; and
7. a statement by COSTI-IIAS Immigrant Services (an organization doing this work professionally for 30 years) objecting to the duplication of services.

I think you will see the clear Liberal connection with this project. As the so-called 'political Minister for Toronto' you would be incompetent if you did not know about this.

As the Minister of Employment for Canada you have approved a grant that—in fact of opposition from the existing organization in Metro's Italian Community—paves the way for former and potential Liberal candidates to organize door-to-door using public money to boot.

Civil service assessment of these grants is perfunctory at best. Existing services are duplicated. Compared to COSTI, the Alliance has an inexperienced Board of Directors.

You have politicized social work in Toronto, which will have long term ramifications.

In short, this grant smells.

I suggest you show some leadership here, reassess the situation and terminate the grant.

In conclusion, I would like to add a couple of further matters so that Canadians will understand why am I objecting to former present and future Liberal candidates going door to door in an organization which is paid for by public funds. The reason is the nature of modern politics. This organization has