

*Adjournment Debate*

ridings of Annapolis Valley and South Shore were less than half of this.

Further, allocations to the riding of the government House leader, Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, jumped from \$0.7 million to \$3 million, an increase of 435 per cent. While allocations to Nova Scotia Liberal ridings jumped by over 500 per cent, two Conservative ridings actually had their allocations cut in that province. Allocations to the riding of the independent member for Moncton were cut by \$130,000, while allocations to surrounding ridings were actually increased.

On the west coast of the country, allocations to the Liberal riding of Vancouver East, won by only 66 votes, I might add, in the 1974 election, were increased by \$350,000, while all surrounding ridings held by other than government supporters had their allocations cut. Allocations to this riding, for example, are grossly disproportionate to the surrounding ridings, most of which received only the bare minimum allocation of \$100,000. Nine ridings in British Columbia received the \$100,000 minimum allocation. Eight of those ridings happen to be held by Conservative members of parliament, which I suggest is more than a coincidence.

● (1827)

If this program of job creation, which has assumed a new importance because of the growing rate of unemployment and because this is the only positive response we have had from the government to this growing rate of unemployment, is to be fairly and impartially administered, then I suggest the new method of allocating funds cannot stand up to the scrutiny of the light of day. Therefore I suggest to the minister that he should resort to the old allocation system.

Further, it is our intention to pursue this matter when the minister comes before the committee, and I would urge the minister to examine what he has done in this regard because it is indefensible. This is the only response we have had thus far to the rising unemployment situation. Not only to be fair, but in order to be credible, this program must be seen to be fair by all Canadians.

**Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) has indeed brought forward a subject which interests all active members in this House, especially those of us who represent ridings where we are always seeking opportunities for our constituents to be employed. Both of us represent areas which are in great need of funds such as those he has mentioned.

I was under the impression the hon. member was going to deal with the topic of FLIP. As he is aware, a new FLIP program has recently been announced. Without any commitments having been made to it, I understand over \$500 million worth of applications by various government departments have already come to the attention of the Treasury Board, and others are being submitted.

I should like to refer to last year's FLIP program, which was much less than this year's program. Out of the \$40,949,000

[Mr. McGrath.]

spent, Newfoundland received \$4,082,000 for 2,995 man months; Prince Edward Island received \$559,000 for 527 man months; Nova Scotia received \$4,377,000; New Brunswick received \$2,812,000; Quebec received \$9,353,000; Ontario received \$7,634,000; Manitoba received \$1,697,000; Saskatchewan received \$2,242,000; Alberta received \$1,736,000; British Columbia received \$5,909,000; the Northwest Territories received \$196,000; and the Yukon received \$352,000. Based on those figures, the FLIP program was very well administered.

Dealing with the subject he raised in regard to certain ridings receiving vast amounts and others receiving a bare minimum under Canada Works, if we had had the time to go through the 264 constituencies I am sure we would have noted that there are a great many ridings held by Liberal members of parliament which also received the very basic minimum.

My own riding received an increase to \$2½ million this year, but the great need for this program is evidenced by the more than \$6 million in applications which were made by the people. I am sure I will never be satisfied, nor will my constituents, with the budget announced for my riding. The fact is that there is a great interest, and indeed \$2½ million may seem like a great amount to a riding not too far away from mine which received \$100,000. If you compare the applications, the unemployment, and the needs in these ridings, perhaps that would be a more fair way of making a comparison.

The hon. member is to be congratulated. I think we are both in agreement that government funds must be spent where they are needed to create jobs. No one argues that point.

● (1832)

It is unfair to mention two or three Conservative ridings when we both know who got the barest minimum. If we want to put it on the record, there are a great many Liberal ridings on the very—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to inform the parliamentary secretary that his allotted time has expired. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been withdrawn.

Motion withdrawn.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock tonight.

At 6.32 p.m. the House took recess.

● (2002)

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 8 p.m.