

situation as rail equipment and roadbeds themselves were deteriorating year after year.

The Government of Canada has recognized a very fundamental commitment to inject federal dollars in investments to upgrade the rail system across the prairie west. In the first 18 months or so, beginning a couple of months ago, and continuing until the beginning of 1979, the federal treasury, again in the context of the restraint program, will contribute something in the order of \$100 million to that rail rehabilitation program in order to develop our transportation spines into first class condition all across the prairies. That, of course, is coupled with the ongoing operating subsidies which the federal treasury has paid in the past and will continue to pay into the future.

When we consider the total cost of specific rail rehabilitation and development on the one side, plus the operating subsidies on the other, during this period of restraint, there is a federal commitment to rail rehabilitation and operation in western Canada of something well over \$200 million. This is a very important commitment to be made to a fundamental part of our economic well-being in the western part of Canada.

Income Tax

Those are four priorities which I am glad to see high on the federal government's priority list in terms of the spending initiatives we will have to take. In the context of restraint the selection of priorities is a very tough, delicate and difficult job, and in that context particularly I am pleased to see those kinds of important western projects going forward, to the advantage of the grains industry and the entire economy of western Canada.

Those are some thoughts and ideas I as a western representative have had about the thrust of government financial policy generally and with relation to this bill specifically. I simply repeat once again what I said at the outset: it is important to Canadians that this legislation be passed as early as possible.

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, may I call it 6.30?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being 6.30 p.m., this House stands adjourned until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 6.30 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to special order.