

The Budget—Mr. Crosby

kind of job creation for which the Government takes credit. I think that is a travesty. I think it is the worst kind of deception and fraud to claim that 3,000 jobs are being created when, in fact, term employees, persons who have worked for the Government in the Department of National Defence for long periods of time, lose their employment in the name of job creation. The purpose of the Government is clear. It is to get as many people employed for as little dollar cost as possible whatever the expense to the human beings involved. That kind of injustice cannot go unpunished in our society.

Let me comment on some other measures in the budget, bearing in mind and underlining the fact that job creation and relief of unemployment is the major task of the Government of Canada today. The Government has talked about a Special Recovery Program. I cannot deal with that part of the program which involves special recovery incentives to business. Those are the sophisticated tax measures I was talking about and only time will tell whether or not they are worthwhile.

Let us look at the other aspects of the Special Recovery Program. I am speaking of the capital projects which were mysteriously increased from \$2.2 billion from \$2.4 billion. I have the page from the budget that was amended, brought in at the last minute, with the \$200 million increase. I look down the list of special projects and I see for one the item "vessel procurement." The amount opposite is \$630 million, which is almost one-third, we will say one-quarter, of the total allocation. I wonder what vessel procurement is. We are going to create jobs in vessel procurement? Is that the \$200 million ferry that is going to be built in the Province of Quebec in order to aid the bail-out of Dome Petroleum? Is that the Gulf span ferry boat the construction of which the Government turned down and said it would be ridiculous to construct this vessel, and about which, very dramatically a few months later, it changed its mind because Davie Shipbuilding Limited in the Province of Quebec was in financial difficulty and that, in turn, created the problem for Dome Petroleum? Is that the same vessel? I suspect it is, Mr. Speaker. We will find out in due course.

On the same page, under special recovery capital projects, we have an item of \$650 million for transportation facilities. Is that the famous double-tracking in western Canada? The Minister talked about \$2.4 billion in projects that were to get under way immediately with employment to start as early as May. Yet the Minister cannot name the projects, or will not name the projects, because if he names the projects we will find out they are the same old projects that have been placed on the table many times in the past, for instance, double-tracking, the bail-out of Dome and help to the Davie Shipbuilding Company. It goes on and on. But what can we do about it, Mr. Speaker? Only time will tell. But it will be on the record here for anybody to read.

Mr. McCain: Regan likes all that.

Mr. Crosby: We know what the Liberals are up to, Mr. Speaker. They are not fooling us.

Let us look at the budgetary measures with respect to housing. Anything that helps the housing industry in Canada will meet with my approval. I do not want to put that too broadly, but I want to say that I am not going to deal specifically with the housing measures except to say that I agree the housing industry is one of the most important industries in Canada and provides a basic necessity for Canadians, one of the real needs of life. But I have a question for the Minister responsible for housing. Not many months ago in this House we were faced with the problem of a gigantic rise in interest costs on mortgages for home owners. We talked about all kinds of programs we would use and implement to bring interest rates on mortgages down. Now interest rates are down. Now is the time to act. Now is the time for the Minister of Finance to say, "Here is a program to keep mortgage interest rates where they are now. Here is a program that will guarantee to Canadians that if they buy a home now they will have some guarantee that current interest rates will stay at those levels." Now is the time to do that. If you do that, Mr. Speaker, Canadians will build and buy homes. Canadians will look after themselves. But what Canadians need is some assurance that there will be some stability in the system on which they can rely. They do not want to buy a home now at 12 per cent or 13 per cent and face a 19 per cent or 20 per cent mortgage in two, three or five years. But what does the Minister do? He just goes back to the same old rehabilitation programs, the things we have heard, the old chestnuts. Although they have value, they will not solve the problem of Canadians owning their homes. They will not solve the continuing problem of having in Canada a viable housing industry. Now is the time to look at interest rates for mortgages, and the Minister has failed to do that.

I have already talked about the book juggling that is done with respect to the employment program in the Department of National Defence. But what about the book juggling with respect to other programs? We want to keep a close eye on that because this is not the first time this Government and this Minister of Finance have described the same program with different words, but the same dollars were involved. I do not need to tell anybody from western Canada, about the Western Development Fund. Whatever happened to that and the billions of dollars in that? Whatever happened to the gas pipeline that we were supposed to have? That has gone.

I want to point out and record very clearly in the presence of the Minister of Finance that it is fine for him to come in with pieces of paper, but development programs are pipelines, are railway tracks and are highways. Dollar bills have pictures of the Queen on them. They are not what is written in the budget speech. I suspect that many of the dollar bills in this budget for employment programs, for development programs, will disappear in the same way that they have disappeared in the past with respect to the Western Development Fund, the gas pipeline and a whole variety of other projects.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): It is phony money.

Mr. Crosby: As my colleague says, phony money.