

The Budget

• (1730)

Unemployment insurance has been attacked. My hon. friend from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who has been very active in this area and who is a great defender of the average worker in this country, has spoken at considerable length on this. We know that the unemployment insurance program came into force in 1940 as a result of the Rowell-Sirois commission report of 1937. It was to be managed by the federal government. Eventually, the federal government contributed considerable sums of money to the UI program to help the unemployed across this nation.

Now, after several years of an understanding that the federal government is a partner and that the federal government must do its part to help the unemployed of this country, we have the federal government pulling out of the UI financial structure entirely. The government has become the managers only, but who is going to pay the differences? The employers, the small businesses across this country are going to have to make larger contributions to make up the difference. The employees are going to have to make bigger contributions to make up the difference.

The privatization of what has been a very successful mixed economy comes into play here because this government is selling off Crown corporations that have been built up over the years with taxpayers' money. Now, they are being sold when there is a complete industry in place. There is no risk in building up a market for the products. There is no risk in having to go out to hire special help because the employees are already in place, whether it be engineers, technicians, nurses, or whatever. They are all there in the structure. Even trade missions around the world have by these companies. Everything necessary for sales production is in place. The government is selling these off for private enterprise when they could be an asset to the taxpayers of this country in returning funds to the treasury of Canada.

We in this country still have a further alignment with the United States in order to make free trade easier. This government is aligning itself with U.S. policy. Anything that the United States wants it to do is fine, it is just a matter of how high the government will jump to please the United States.

This budget brings into the open this Tory government's multi-year plan to terminate the federal role in health and post-secondary education. The government is dumping the load on to provincial governments.

There is another thing that the government is dumping on to provincial governments, in an indirect way, by dumping a bigger load for post-secondary education and medicare. In my own province of Ontario, for example, Mr. Nixon, the provincial treasurer of Ontario had a surplus this year in the provincial budget. But what happens? After the Minister of Finance was finished with the Ontario budget, Ontario had a deficit this year of nearly \$500 million. That was as a result of the irresponsible attitude of this federal government in dumping its debts over on to the province of Ontario.

There has always been a great deal of comment about highways in eastern Ontario, for example. I want to comment on the additional debt that this federal government has bestowed on Mr. Nixon, the provincial treasurer of Ontario and, indeed, on to the people of Ontario.

Transportation and highways in eastern Ontario have always been an issue. We had Conservatives in power in the province of Ontario for 42 years, from 1943 to 1985. I remember when I first came here, the Hon. Joe Green, who was then Minister of Agriculture, the then member for Renfrew South, got up in this House and he called Highway 17 the goat trail of eastern Ontario. That was about what it was.

In the last four and a half years when we have had a Liberal government in Queen's Park there have been all kinds of complaints and talk about road conditions in eastern Ontario. Everybody knows that these things cannot be built overnight. But the provincial government of Ontario has made a decision to four lane Highway 16 from Highway 401 into the National Capital Region. When that is completed in four or five year's time it will be the first time in history that the city of Ottawa, the national capital of this country, has ever had a four lane highway into it from southern Ontario and the Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton, and Kitchener areas.

We go on to take a look at this cut, this nearly \$500 million that is being passed over to the province of Ontario. There have been further comments about the Ontario government not doing enough work in eastern Ontario in transportation. The Government of Ontario just recently made another multi-million dollar an-