

I ask the federal government to co-operate with the so-called have provinces like Ontario—which no longer is a have province primarily because of this federal government.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member that I agreed with most of what he said. I understand the great frustration that he must be going through because of the problems with Algoma Steel. But he is a member of the New Democratic Party and right now that party probably has more influence with the premier of Ontario than any one of us in this House of Commons.

When you talk about this government staying the course, its plan of wrestling inflation to the ground—by the way, I think there is no inflation in this country—it has more than wrestled it to the ground and you basically indicated that. But my point to you is that I get a sense that the premier of Ontario is basically following the same course that this Conservative government is following.

I want to stress a couple of things. First of all, there are close to 400,000 entrepreneurs in the province of Ontario. These are people who are highly creative and highly motivated. Right now they are saying that they need some inspiration, they need a push, they need a spark from the province of Ontario. Quite frankly, there is a sense that the premier of Ontario would rather pay people not to work than try to take chances on the human capital and the entrepreneurship that is there.

I do not want to give a big long list in this House of Commons today, because this is a national debate and my specific examples are basically from my own province. I would like to meet with you privately. There are literally dozens of examples where entrepreneurs want to do things to create jobs, but they are looking for a little bit of spark, not in terms of taxpayers' money but things going through the process.

An hon. member: Name one.

Mr. Mills: You ask me to name one. I will name one. Last Friday in the province of Ontario the minister of municipal affairs put the hammer and closed down an affordable housing project, 5,000 affordable homes, \$110,000 to \$140,000 homes, five minutes north of Newmarket. It would have created 17,000 jobs. It was not

going to cost the taxpayers of Ontario a nickel—17,000 jobs over four years.

Let me be very accurate. I personally faxed the premier, tried to phone the premier, wrote to the premier, wrote to all those people and I could not get a response.

The premier of the province of Ontario went on national television—I was not here when he gave his pitch; I was in the Middle East—but I heard that he was asking for ideas and ways to create jobs. Then a week later he put the hammer on it. There is a bit of inconsistency here.

I am not trying to do anything other than to suggest that when you throw a shot across the floor at the Conservative government, how about re-examining the opportunities that we have within the province of Ontario for creating jobs.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order. I fail to see the relevance of the hon. member's comments. The bill before the House today concerns the Canada Assistance Plan, and I would appreciate it if the hon. member would get back to the subject and finish his remarks.

[English]

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, the relevance is this. If we had people working again there would not be a necessity for this cap on the Canada Assistance Plan because if there were full employment in this country we would not be needing to cap bills that are as fundamental to the fabric of this country as this is. My plea is that we get people back to work.

Legislation like this can be withdrawn from the floor of the House and so I plead with the hon. member for some help.

Mr. Butland: Mr. Speaker, I think there were some cynical comments there and it is unfortunate that this kind of debate would get that partisan. I think it became a little partisan. I would say that at least this government is consistent.

I suspect the party that the member represents could espouse what it says, and as full employment really is our party's policy, I think he is espousing our policy which never surprises me about the Liberals, opportunistic perhaps.