

*Government Orders*

remarkable ideas offered to me as a means of trying to deal with the economic situation. Let us all go back to our constituencies and ask the ordinary folks for those kinds of ideas and in the meantime, let us scrap this bill so that we can ensure that while we need it, the money is being transferred from the federal taxpayer to the provincial taxpayers in those three provinces, so that we can look after the people in need.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan that I think that was a very good idea he just came up with. There are many parts of his speech that I agree with, especially when he was talking about the thousands of jobs that were being lost in the province of Ontario.

I do have however a little problem with the New Democratic Party. I want to be very specific. One of the largest auto parts organizations in Canada is Magna International. Its co-founder, Mr. Antoine Capka, resigned about three years ago, and went off with a group of other private sector entrepreneurs to develop an idea to build a small town. Eighty per cent of it was to be composed of affordable shelter. What I mean by affordable is ranging anywhere from \$120,000 to \$140,000.

They hired the former minister of education, Bette Stephenson, to head a group to set up an environmental college. It was kind of a dream situation. They invested \$25 million of their own money. They got land that was declared surplus passed by agricultural experts. The conservation authority said that it was not causing any problems in terms of the environment or the ecosystem, et cetera.

This was a project that would have created about 17,000 jobs over a period of four years.

Just this Friday past, the minister of municipal affairs for the province of Ontario wrote a letter to the principals saying they would never approve this project. They literally shut it down. They shut it down without hearing a full proposal. I can tell you from personal experience, I have tried to call the premier. I have faxed the premier. I have written to ministers in the province in a very high-road, constructive way saying this project

is three times the size of de Havilland for four years, not to mention the social benefits of the college, et cetera.

I tried to communicate the importance of this to the premier and his ministers in the province of Ontario and I got nowhere. The member was making remarks earlier about the province of Ontario and their need for jobs. What do I have to do in order to bring a project like this to the province of Ontario so we can put Canadians back to work, get affordable shelter, not to mention the light industry that was planned for the project?

Regretfully, Mr. Capka, who had this dream and was really one of the brains behind Magna, died two weeks ago of a massive heart attack, God rest his soul. I believe one of the reasons he died was because of the pressure and the frustration of dealing with layers and layers of bureaucracy. When you believe you have a vision or a dream, somehow the bureaucratic process can really strangle you.

My question to the member is: How do we communicate good ideas that will create jobs to the NDP leadership in the province of Ontario?

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know anything about this specific project, so I am not going to comment either way. Obviously the member has already done part of that marketing by standing up in the House and asking me that question. That is really what you have to do. The reality is that there are a lot of ideas out there and they have to get through to the people who are in charge.

I have found that the current Government of Ontario is much different than the previous Liberal government in that ideas have to be proven. They have to go through a process, as opposed to what I am told happened in the past. Then if you convinced the premier, he would order it done without thinking it through. I know of a couple of incidences of that.

I can tell you though, regardless of the one matter that the hon. member raised, that I have at least two examples of where the government worked hand in hand with business and labour in two plants in the community of Atikokan. There was some inventive financing that did not require large amounts of money from the province or the federal government. In fact, the federal government basically ignored us. Those plants, Proboard and Atikokan Forest Products, are running again, putting a