

Government recovered 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the money. At the same time those grants performed a very useful undertaking for society. The Government does not have a fair, just and equitable anti-deficit policy. It is going to spend \$105 billion this year. Canada will have the largest deficit which has ever been incurred in its history. The Government does not have an anti-deficit policy. If it had one, surely these two programs would be allowed to continue until their original expiry dates—1990, in the case of COSP, and 1987 in the case of CHIP. The cancellation of these two programs and the cutting of other programs, such as the regional development programs and programs in the Canadian Wildlife Service, is not for the purpose of reducing the deficit. Rather, the moneys are being gathered and redirected, diverted or siphoned to other areas which the Government feels have higher priorities. After several months it is becoming clear that the Government's priorities do not lie with programs for the people or the environment.

During the election campaign hundreds of promises were put forward by the Conservative Party. Most of those promises have already been forgotten and others have been disavowed. Some have been reinterpreted and many have been postponed indefinitely. It is no wonder. As the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) said during the election campaign, \$20 billion was just too rich for our blood.

However, there is one promise to which the Government adhered, and that is the promise that it was going to cosy up to the United States administration. The Government has done that. We have lost FIRA, and programs for the people, the environment and regional development have been either discontinued or reduced. Why? Certainly, so that more money will be available. Money will come from the cut-backs in these programs, plus the money which the Government will borrow, and it will be directed toward defence expenditures.

A recent article in *The Financial Post*, dated March 16, indicated:

The Department of National Defence is quickly emerging as a major force in Ottawa and a spender that will create problems in a Government pledged to bring the deficit under control.

In cosying up to the U.S. administration, Canada as a country has decided that it too has to pack bigger and better guns on its hips. Defence issues are now in the forefront of the Government's policy-making decisions. The Government has no anti-deficit policy, but it clearly has a pro-military policy. I think Canadians should wake up and realize that we cannot afford to be like the big guys on the block. It is silly for us to strut around as if we were a big power in world affairs—all colour co-ordinated too!

**Mr. McDermid:** What's that got to do with Bill C-24?

**Mr. Penner:** It has everything to do with Bill C-24, because some of the money will come from the termination of these programs. There are other more important national goals, objectives and priorities. I would remind the House that the decision to terminate COSP and CHIP is foolish and wrong-headed. I would like to illustrate why.

### *Oil Substitution Act*

The Government continues to spend money to encourage the expansion of natural gas distribution systems. The Government has not yet decided to cancel that program, although we may hear more about that in the future. Citizens have responded very favourably to the possibility of tying into the new gas-line systems. Quite rightly, Canadians thought they had until 1990 to make a decision as to whether they would or would not do so. However, now the deadline is March 31, with a small extension to the end of June for people who applied before the end of November.

I am speaking about this today because that deadline and the extension discriminates against the people I represent. My constituents in northern Ontario will not have the opportunity to hook up to the new gas-line systems which are now under construction. Gas companies stopped accepting applications for hook-ups last December because they knew that it was impossible to break frost-covered ground during the winter or early spring. There will not be enough time for my constituents and other people in northern Ontario to take advantage of this last-minute opportunity by the end of June.

I am quite certain that Conservative Members from northern Ontario—the Hon. Member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Kelleher), the Hon. Member for Timmins-Chapleau (Mr. Gervais), and the Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall)—must be raising their voices in strong protest in the Government caucus. They must be saying that it is unfair to northern Ontario. They must believe that COSP must be extended and that it should continue until 1990. At least, they should be saying that the program should not be terminated in June, because it is not fair. I am sure those three Tory Members are saying that, unless the Government yields and makes amendments to Bill C-24, they will join with the Liberals and the New Democrats and vote against the legislation.

The one Member who will have a problem will be the Hon. Member for Sault Ste. Marie, as he is a member of the Cabinet. Of course, the only choice which he has is to resign. That man told us during the election campaign that he would put northern Ontario far ahead of government decisions which would impinge negatively on that region.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** He said that?

**Mr. Penner:** He sure did. He said that he would represent the people of northern Ontario and that he would not let them down. The Hon. Members for Timmins-Chapleau and Timiskaming also said that. Now is the chance for them to show their true colours. Will they represent the region, or will they toe the line, take their orders and vote blindly against the region which elected them?

This Bill must be defeated. Bill C-24 is unacceptable. I do not think it can be improved in committee. I agree with the former speaker, as I too believe that the Government should take a fresh look at this legislation. The Government should listen to the three Tory Members from northern Ontario. They should support us today in hoisting the Bill for six months. These men should have an opportunity to bring the Govern-