

*Supply*

will help the country. If they feel better and feel more dignified, that poll in 1992 that showed a dismal drop in attitudes would be changed and changed for the better.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Madam Speaker, I want to first of all thank my colleague. He took a very reasoned and rational approach to an incredibly large amount of money and indicated that when you are spending \$160 billion, there is certainly room to do something constructive and helpful to move this country out of its doldrums and move the population, who are feeling so badly about being out of work. I have forgotten what the figure was for people out of work, and I am going to ask my colleague if he could refresh our memory as to what is happening out there in terms of unemployment.

More particularly, I know my colleague is a man who has good ideas. He talked about all the things that could be done and the feelings of satisfaction and dissatisfaction. I wonder if he could address some of the good ideas this party has put forward that could effectively create jobs and meet the aspirations of the unemployed that he was talking about.

**Mr. Marchi:** Madam Speaker, I would be happy to respond to my colleague's question.

One of those classic examples that comes to mind is one that has been proposed by our leader as recently as last week when he addressed the Conference of Mayors and Municipalities in Montreal concerning the idea of trying to get the federal government to support an infrastructure program, a program that would see the three levels of government participating in the restructuring, rebuilding and renewing of our inner and outer cities.

Again, it is a question of common sense and logic. You know as well as I do, Madam Speaker, whether it is Montreal or Toronto or Vancouver or Hamilton or North Bay or Sudbury, those cities and towns constantly need upgrading. Whether it is a question of doing it sooner or later, it would be advantageous for unemployed Canadians if we moved those projects up.

• (2000 )

I used to be in municipal government in the city of North York and know of what I speak. There used to be a large number of projects on our shelves that we, as a municipality, were unable to afford a dollar on the dollar. We were only able to put up 30 cents, 33 cents, or 45 cents on the dollar in terms of initiating those

projects. The remaining moneys for that \$1 would have to come from the other two senior levels of government.

So there is a role for this government to play in actually kick-starting those projects. They could be taken off the shelf so that we could at least put carpenters, bricklayers, electricians, and the other trades back to work, which would then have an impact on the other services. There would be a sense of momentum, of movement, and some confidence would be rekindled in the economy.

Clearly one idea we have advanced is a national restructuring program with our cities and municipalities. We have asked for not great sums, certainly not as much as the refitting of the new helicopters would require, some \$4.3 billion.

I am not suggesting our navy or our Armed Forces do not need upgrading but there are a number of different opinions concerning the dollar figure that is being attached to that \$4.3 billion helicopter purchase and that it clearly could be scaled down.

My point is the government was very quick to approve those moneys and yet it was equally quick and easy for this government to dismiss other such ideas as not being in keeping with the financial plans of this government.

Some of the greatest frustrations for Canadians is that no one is listening to the ideas they have advanced. The idea for a restructuring program in our inner cities is not necessarily only coming from this side of the House and the opposition leader, it is coming from municipalities, from local elected officials, from provincial officials. The idea is being supported on the street level by those Canadians who dearly want to go back to work, including my own city of metropolitan Toronto.

There now seems to be more construction in Ottawa. We have the unbelievable situation of Toronto contractors coming to bid on jobs in Ottawa when two, three or four years ago that was absolutely an unthinkable solution but it is here and unfortunately we have to deal with it.

**Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Madam Speaker, there is a story going around about two tourists on safari in Africa. They were admiring the wonders of the grassy plains when suddenly they were charged by a huge lion. There was no place to hide and their vehicle was too far away to take refuge. One tourist stared in amazement as the second man bent down to tie up his shoelace. "You cannot possibly outrun that lion", he exclaimed. "No", replied the first man as he broke