

Government Orders

One of the things that really strikes me with this bill which is a cap on CAP is that it will in essence curb the spending in certain areas that are considered the rich areas.

I do not know where this government has been living for the last year or so, but there are really no more well-off areas. All you have to do is look at the unemployment statistics in southern Ontario. You might as well not bother looking in any of the regions of northern Ontario because there are absolutely no jobs there, and the prospects are not looking very good. If you look at the resource sector, the mining sector, there are just not very many wealthy areas, including the west.

I am wondering why this government is pushing ahead with a piece of legislation which is behind the times.

What we have to do now is work together to redress the problems that have been created in this country and not try to shift them to people in certain areas. The people in Ontario, the people in Alberta, and the people in British Columbia are no better off than the people in other areas of the country. Why would you insist on pushing this bill further and not deal with the economic problems? Perhaps you have some statements to make to this.

Mr. Mills: In reacting to my colleague's comment, as I said earlier in my speech, this kind of action the first day back in the Parliament of Canada shows me that this government's level of creativity is really suspect.

There are literally hundreds of ways that we can put people back to work in this country. Look at the tourism opportunities in this country right now that we could be taking advantage of which would put people back to work right away. Instead of spending \$30 million in promoting government programs and services, let us spend \$30 million in promoting people to travel and come to Canada.

I think Canadians would like to see all of us in this Parliament locked in this room and not let out until we come up with a program that will put people back to work. In the private sector, if your business is going badly or you are having a tough time, you do not work nine to five Monday to Friday. You come in at six or seven in the morning and work until late at night. You work Saturdays and Sundays. That is what the government should be doing. It should be taking the lead and have emergency

debates on employment. It should work Saturdays and Sundays until everybody is back to work. Then its problem with CAP would be eliminated.

• (1350)

Mr. Speaker, I say to you and my colleague that it is very tough for a young entrepreneur like myself to understand why the government is not doing this. There are hundreds of thousands out there right now who fear maybe not being able to meet a payroll, or that the bank manager will not extend their line of credit when times are tough. They are counting on this House of Commons to try to solve their problems. I hope we can this week.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood has made an excellent speech. I wonder if he is despairing of the opportunity to proceed with the debate along the lines he had suggested. The reason for my asking about his possible despair is the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the government to listen to the debate, evidenced by the fact that not a single minister is here to hear his excellent presentation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I must remind the hon. member that it is not according to the rules to—

[*Translation*]

It is against the Standing Orders to mention the presence or absence of another member in this House.

The hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Milliken: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, but it is also customary in this House for a minister to be present during debate on a government bill.

[*English*]

In any case I ask the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood if he could perhaps indicate whether there are problems getting an urgent debate on a subject like this in the House, trying to restore employment to acceptable levels in Canada, and if in fact he thinks the government is serious in its efforts to get Canadians back to work.

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, most Canadians think we are irrelevant in this House of Commons. That is one thing we certainly felt listening to people when we were home