

Closing Expo 1967 Corporation

before, I decided on St. Helen's Island. We brought it about. We launched it. Then, what happened? When the opening proceedings took place, Premier Lesage, no longer premier, and myself, both of whom had done their part to bring it about, were seated so far back in the audience that an ordinary telescope was not sufficient to enable us to see what was going on. The government had decided to turn EXPO into a Liberal holiday, and it turned out to be one in which the liberality of the expenditure has never been exceeded in Canada at any time.

There was waste. There was extravagance. There was an orgy of wasteful expenditure over which no one had any control. Now, hon. gentlemen opposite want us to pass Bill C-6 to wind up the corporation. They tell us, in effect: We won't go into any of the detail, or into any of the facts in connection with expenditure; we just want the House of Commons to say "Blessed are they who spend extravagantly and beyond any right, because they were spending on something which was worthwhile for Canada."

Well, to get the record straight—because we shall not otherwise get the facts on the record—it is well to recall that on March 27 last the Auditor General in his annual report set out certain details which prove beyond question that what happened is an indictment of the Government of Canada for failing to exercise any control over the purse-strings of expenditure. Let me mention some of the references. The construction cost of Habitat's apartments went up to \$17,982,000, or \$10 million more than the original estimate. Mr. Speaker, if you want to see a habitat of inefficiency and ineffectiveness, view that place. Nobody wants to rent there, because if they did so they would need the resources of EXPO to pay the monthly rental rates. There it stands, a monument to inefficiency and to wild expenditure for which Canadians will have to pay. When the architects' fees and other costs involved are added to the expenditure, the 115 finished apartments and the 43 unfinished apartments cost a grand total of \$22,685,000. I should like to hear the minister defend that expenditure. It was waste unjustified, and all there is to show for it is that monument, Habitat, which nobody wants to occupy.

Then, there were the two theme buildings, Man the Producer and Man the Explorer, whose cost went up from—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to apologize to the right hon. gentleman but I must [Mr. Diefenbaker.]

bring to his notice that under the terms of the Standing Order his time has expired, unless he has the unanimous consent of the House to continue.

Sone hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Thank you. I mentioned those two theme buildings. Their cost rose from an original estimate of \$9,125,000 to \$20,560,000. Just imagine what would have happened had there been any control. Then the Auditor General, who does not seem to be very popular with this government, urged that Parliament should commission a fulltime investigation of these operations. He goes on to talk about the jumbled books. The accounting was so jumbled that the joint auditors, Mr. Henderson and the Quebec provincial auditor, were unable to certify the correctness of \$101,438,000 out of an approximate total revenue of \$141 million. This amount was lost without trace. There was nothing to show how \$101 million had been spent.

• (4.00 p.m.)

Salaries at Expo also went haywire, almost from the beginning. Thirty-three officers received salaries of \$10,000 or more, and these amounts were increased during 1967 by from 20 per cent to 60 per cent. This was the time when the government was talking about inflation. All these people had to do was to spend; no one controlled them.

Thirty-three employees left their employment before the end of the year and received severance pay averaging 27 per cent of their boosted salaries. Instead of these people themselves being boosted out, they received severance pay amounting to 27 per cent of their boosted salaries.

Of the work force, about 24,000 received overtime ranging from \$1,000 to \$19,000, at a total cost of \$4.5 million. We hear so much today about people getting overtime. I should think these people at Expo ought to give correspondence courses so that labour can understand how to obtain overtime.

Then, a collective labour agreement that gave most hourly rated employees 4 per cent severance pay was extended to those who were not covered by the agreement, and 12 such employees received a total of \$70,000, the largest sum received being \$15,425.

The next item dealt with is rental. The Expo Corporation itself lost \$345,000 on the