

Government Orders

at that time about 40 aircraft and attracts about 80,000 visitors a year. In that five aircraft were destroyed and it was a very sad thing.

• (1820)

I wish to report however that the War Plane Heritage Museum which is chiefly staffed by volunteers, with over 6,000 members, has risen from the ashes. It has done more than that. Not only has it embarked on a very aggressive program to replace the aircraft that were destroyed, it has also put forward a proposal to build a brand new museum on the Hamilton airport property as part of the infrastructure program. It has actually put a proposal forward.

This proposal has gone before the Hamilton—Wentworth regional council and it has basically agreed to partial funding. The council is going to put up \$1 million and the museum is going to come up with the other \$3 million through donations and various other means and then we hope to have matching grants from the province and the federal government to bring the total cost of the museum to \$12 million.

The plan is a beautiful one. They want to put up a museum which will be right next to the airport terminal. It is going to be shaped like the fin on the tail end of an airplane and there will be two large hangers on either side in which to keep the restored aircraft. There will be a viewing area and all that kind of thing. It is going to be fairly close to where they are going to put the new highway 6 bypass. It is going to be a very attractive project.

This seems to be a rather odd thing to be a candidate for an infrastructure program because we think more in terms of roads and bridges. The region is using much of its \$53 million allocation for just that purpose. This project incredibly fits right into the infrastructure mandate as laid out in this program. It is going to create jobs and it is going to be operated by the people who have put it together.

The thing that makes this project so exciting is not only is it going to create jobs, it is going to create enormous attention for the War Plane Heritage Museum which as I explained already attracts 80,000 visitors a year and we can expect it to attract 160,000 visitors a year when this is completed. Therefore, we will see jobs created.

The thing that is so delightful about this project is that it really is a project that celebrates our past and our identity as Canadians, even though it is an infrastructure project. This is the thing that is so beautiful about it.

For instance, one of the most stellar aircraft in the collection is a Lancaster bomber which is one of only two Lancaster bombers in the entire world that will still fly. That is the kind of object that is in this museum.

The reason I bring this up is that to my mind it just shows how a program like the infrastructure program that has been presented by this government can be taken by regional politicians and by ordinary people and be made into something that can inspire our fellow Canadians, can celebrate our past and be a very fine thing for everyone involved.

I think that other communities will take this program and do many things similar to this. It is a very fine program and a very fine budget.

The Deputy Speaker: I understand that the member is dividing his time. The hon. deputy whip to the government, the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell on debate.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this debate.

I want to start by congratulating the Minister of Finance for having brought forward such a balanced budget for our country. Mr. Speaker, lest you think that I am partisan when I make these remarks, which is probably the furthest thing from your mind at this point, let me tell you what others have said about the budget.

• (1825)

John Reid of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association says that the budget sends a good message for the economy and our rapidly changing job structure. Is that not great?

Ted Bryk, president of the Canadian Home Builders Association—an appropriate name for a job like that—said: “I think it is fantastic. I see it as a really positive move that will encourage young buyers into the housing market”. This is in reference to the extension of the RRSP Home Buyers Program.

“It is a huge incentive for small business to create business. You take a tax off jobs, you get more jobs”. This is in reference to the cut in UI premiums by John Bulloch, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Even bankers have said that this is in bankers’ language a good budget. Mike Chandler of the Royal Bank says that the market seems to have given the budget a passing to good grade. Considering bankers’ compliments as they are, I consider this to be pretty complimentary.

[Translation]

So, as you noted, Canadians agree that this budget is good for the future of our country. It is not only commentators who made comments on this; we have already seen the effects of this budget, and also the effects of having a government that we can trust, and we see it in the reduction of the unemployment rate since the Liberal government took office.