

handling little more than one million passengers in 1977, less than 19 per cent of its capacity. The Auditor General, in his report tabled yesterday, says that Mirabel has lost \$119.7 million since it opened, which amounts to approximately \$1 million a week. He tells us that this year the airport will lose \$52.5 million. How much has the government budgeted to complete this white elephant? I would like to know what has gone wrong. I submit that this is one of the major problems that we face as elected representatives. When an expenditure is made, my constituents look to me and say, "You are our representative; why did you go along with it?" As I read the Auditor General's report, it seems to me that neither members of the Treasury Board nor bureaucrats have a clue as to what is going on. They seem to go along with one hand not knowing what the other hand is doing, making expenditures over which we have no say. My party and my leader, when we form the next government, will restore parliament to the people.

● (1542)

The industrial park established at Mirabel has been totally unsuccessful. MIRCA, the managing authority, has spent \$5,440,000 on roads, water facilities, site preparation and marketing studies. But to this date there is not a single tenant in that industrial park. After ten years of planning and nearly \$1 billion in public expenditures, Mirabel remains an airport operating at less than 20 per cent capacity with an empty industrial park. Did anyone on the Treasury benches or any of the government's experts realize at the time the tremendous mess they were creating, or the tremendous tax burden they were placing unnecessarily on the backs of all Canadians? They further compounded their mistakes when they bought or leased building space for offices in Ottawa and Hull. They took on long-term obligations for space, without proper planning, resulting in wasteful expenditures which will be a burden on our children's children.

In his 1975 report, the Auditor General stressed the need to establish tighter controls on government expenditures through the centralization of some financial management control procedures. Obviously it was not done, for in his 1978 report, at page 44, there is a list of 12 capital projects which were approved in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 at a cost of \$281.6 million. The final cost amounted to \$699.7 million, or an increase over estimates of \$418 million. This is why there is no money for improved forestry research. This is why the fisheries lab in Halifax faces closure, at a time when its output basically is very important to the fishing industry. This is why funds are limited for grain storage depots in Atlantic Canada.

**Mr. Breau:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crouse:** I listened to the hon. member without interrupting him. I would ask him to do the same for me. This is why there is no money for dredging which is urgently needed in my constituency, if not in his. This is why there are no funds for repairs to wharves, breakwaters and skidways. When we ask the minister responsible for small craft harbours development, this is why his plea is that there is no money. The government has blundered, misspent and misappropriated

funds until the country faced financial disaster. This is the problem we face today.

As a result of these facts, the Prime Minister and his party are no longer credible in Canada. They try to lay the blame for our economic mess on anyone but themselves. The words of a modern song apply to our Prime Minister. They are as follows:

How many times can a man break faith  
And pretend that he just doesn't see?  
The answer, my friends, is blowin' in the wind,  
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

I believe the future of this government may well be "blowin' in the wind", especially since the Prime Minister expressed the view that a new constitution is needed to restore Canada's national pride, economic stability and unity. He warned provincial leaders that unless they get their heads together and write a new constitution, others will write a uniquely Canadian constitution. Who the others are is left unsaid. However, having messed up everything else in the country during its ten years in office, what guarantees do the premiers and Canadians have that the Prime Minister's constitutional proposals will not lead to still further chaos? The real problem of the Prime Minister and his government is the credibility of the right hon. member who heads the Liberal party and the government today. Stripped of all political baffle-gab and nonsense, there is nothing inherently wrong with our existing constitution. What is wrong is that it has been abused by the powers that be, since special emergency steps were taken for prosecuting World War II. Following the end of the wartime emergency, Ottawa retained the powers and proceeded on a course of centralization and bureaucracy building, while acting like "Big Daddy-O" to the provinces.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. While engaging in a flight of oratory, the hon. member used the word "misappropriated" in terms of the way in which funds had been handled by the government. I am sure the hon. member did not wish to give it the literary meaning. I ask him to reflect upon his use of that word and perhaps use a more appropriate term.

**Mr. Crouse:** I could use the term "lack of control".

**Mr. Blais:** Very well.

**Mr. Crouse:** Obviously that has happened time and time again during the past ten years. As the Auditor General pointed out, today there is no control. I was speaking about the proposals the Prime Minister and his party are trying to foist upon Canadians to rewrite the constitution. Stripped of all political nonsense, there is nothing inherently wrong with our present constitution. Following the end of the wartime emergency, Ottawa retained too many powers and proceeded on a course of centralization and bureaucracy building, while attempting to act like a father to the provinces.

As I understand it, the province of Quebec resisted this power grab. Unfortunately, the other provinces did not cover themselves with glory when they permitted the central government to usurp their powers and authority. The solution to this