

owned in Great Britain and the United States. If you are going to rip somebody off, in other words, the Canadian taxpayers, at least rip them off for the benefit of Canadian companies. However, the government does not even do that.

I can hear them down in the United States saying: "Do you know what we got those dummies to do in Canada? They are going to build this bridge from New Brunswick to P.E.I., spend \$42 million a year and we got a piece of the action in the company". In the board rooms of the same construction company in Britain they are saying the same thing: "We could have given them tunnel technology, but no, they wanted a bridge. Whatever they want, we will give it to them if the suckers want to spend that kind of money".

It is \$8,000 per person in Prince Edward Island. If we give the people in Prince Edward Island the option to vote on whether they want the \$8,000 per person or this bridge, guess what they will go for. Give them the vote. Let us see what they do for.

Mrs. Sparrow: They have already had a vote.

Mr. Barrett: They did not get a vote on the eight grand. They did not get a vote on the money they could make. They do not own the company in Prince Edward Island. They are not going to get sweet boom all on Prince Edward Island except the chance to sell postcards of this long 13-kilometre bridge which probably by the time it is finished, with the amount of money and the costs going up, will be a single-lane one way.

An hon. member: Oh, get off it.

Mr. Barrett: Get off the bridge, she says. You explain to the people in Alberta why you are going to spend \$42 million a year to save a \$21 million problem. I will go to Alberta with you and we will go up on a platform together, along with my good friend from Annapolis Valley—Hants. We will stand up and say: "Okay, you tell us why we should spend the taxpayers' money on this".

It is so dumb, they take it seriously. I thought this was all a joke. I thought this was started on April fool's day and got carried out of whack. But they are serious. They really intend to do this.

We have heard of horses on the payroll, we have heard of the boondoggles that this government has put up over

the years and what do they say to me? "Oh, you're going to lose votes in P.E.I." If they want to buy votes, they can do it a hell of a lot better and a lot cheaper than this kind of buy-out. How many votes are they going to get in Britain from the construction company? How many votes are they going to get in the United States? If they want to buy votes, just do it right up front. Give them the money up front. Be honest about it.

Is this a matter of buying votes or is this a matter of sensible fiscal responsibility? Bridges do not go on strike, said the minister. Ding dong, it does not mean a thing.

Is there anybody in this Chamber who has got \$42 million a year worth of projects they would like built in their riding? Just stand up.

An hon. member: What about the deficit?

Mr. Barrett: Never mind the deficit, my dear friend. This is politics. The deficit does not count when we are talking about regional voting. If we throw money at the bridge, maybe they will vote for us. I think this is an insult to the people of Prince Edward Island. I think it is an insult to the people of New Brunswick. It sure as hell is an insult to the people of Canada who have to pick up the bill for this boondoggle.

Mrs. Dobbie: You are picking on little Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Barrett: Picking on Prince Edward Island? Its people think it is a joke. They think it is a great deal of fun to pull the wool over Canadian eyes, saying we can spend \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year. This is the new Tory-Liberal thinking.

I challenge the members from New Brunswick and P.E.I. to stand up on the platform and say: "This is the way we are going to get this country out of the financial mess. We will spend twice as much to save half as little". Will they get up on a platform and explain it that way? No, they will not. But that is the reality.

That is the absolute reality. How do they justify the Great Britain and United States company's 70 per cent consortium owned offshore? Why are we spending the money to enhance contractors in Great Britain? I do not know. Why are we spending the money to enhance contractors in the United States? I do not know.