

*The Budget—Mr. Leboe*

I said I would have something more to say about interest and dividends being paid outside Canada. I appreciate the minister's statement in this regard because it emphasizes one thing which has been denied in some circles, namely that the public debt of Canada is owned by Canadians. The minister has told us that one of the problems here is the heavy obligation with respect to interest on dividends payable outside Canada. But he also went to great lengths to explain that the provinces, municipalities and government agencies should have the right to go to foreign markets to borrow money. I fail to see why they should do this when they are all going to use our assets in Canada to back these new funds which are being created.

I turn now to the situation produced by the government's decision to restrict parts of its construction program. I notice that first on the list of projects to be eliminated is the provision of grain storage facilities at Prince Rupert, British Columbia. I am sure that if the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) had spoken before me, one of the first things he would have mentioned would have been the decision taken with regard to these facilities. The minister talks about wanting to increase our exports. We are all aware of the bottleneck which slows down our efforts to get wheat out of Canada. Now he says we are not to build new terminals in Prince Rupert. The other day I read in the paper the number of box cars filled with grain which are scattered all the way from Golden to the coast, waiting to be unloaded—some 1300, held up because there are no facilities at the coast for handling them. Yet first on the list of projects to be eliminated are these facilities at Prince Rupert.

I hope that when he gives consideration to this matter the minister will not forget that an airport terminal at Prince George is very sorely needed. Maybe he could fly up to Prince George on a Sunday and see whether he can find a place to set his suitcase down there. I am sure he would be happy to recommend the expenditure of some money by the Department of Transport to make sure that the facilities are improved as quickly as possible.

The minister has admitted there are pockets of unemployment in this country. Surely we must devise some way of applying a tight money policy only in areas where there are inflationary tendencies while making sure that credit is available where it is needed. Some hon. members have spoken about the causeway over to Prince Edward Island. I

have been in this house for nine years and during that time all I have heard has been speeches about the poverty of the maritimes. This being the situation, why in the world should we postpone the construction of such a causeway?

We hear a lot about equalization payments to the poorer provinces. This was mentioned in the budget speech. The province from which I come is one of the richer provinces. It is a matter of development and of looking after natural resources. All the provinces have this ability, provided they use the right policies.

I was a little surprised that the minister should have advocated more borrowing in the course of his speech. This vexes me. It seems wrong to me that we in this country should continually be borrowing money from outside and using our own assets to back up these loans. The minister says:

There should on the other hand be some saving to provinces and municipalities in what it is necessary to pay in interest to foreign lenders. I hope it will enable some borrowing to be done in Europe, despite the high cost of borrowing there.

When we have our own facilities in Canada, why in the world should we have to pay through the nose in order to borrow in Europe? It does not make sense to me.

I sympathize with the minister in his efforts to meet the situation caused by too many people spending too much money. In this connection I would remind the hon. gentleman to look again at the activities of the finance corporations which spend huge sums advertising for persons to enter their doors and get money. Once these people receive it it is a different story—24 per cent interest on the amount borrowed.

The minister tells us we are faced with a lack of skilled labour. This affects one area in which the provinces have no jurisdiction—control over immigration. If the minister really believes that more skilled labour is needed, let him get his colleagues together and make sure Canada receives the type of immigrants capable of filling these vacant positions, so that we can build up production, provide more goods and avoid too much money chasing too few things.

I agree with the minister in his attitude toward the protection, if one can call it that, of those in the lower income brackets as far as income tax changes are concerned. I think this is good. It is good that the minister has seen the light and promised to change the