

I should like to refer briefly to some comments made by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) last night. I was quite impressed with his remarks, and since, in effect, we have a coalition government I think hon. members opposite could derive some input from hon. members like the hon. member for Timiskaming, though he is probably a bit too practical to suit their taste. May I briefly refer to something that he said, as reported at page 1072 of *Hansard*:

Why should we allow the provinces to decide what the criteria are to be? Why should we operate this winter works capital project by regulation rather than by legislation?

In discussing items such as this it is time we realized that, in effect, the government have been doing this sort of thing a great deal lately. They operate by decrees, by orders in council, by regulation; and they are not even dealing in a meaningful way with their own Members of Parliament, much less other members of this great institution who are entitled to the fullest consideration on matters of policy, and to the opportunity to express their views.

It seems to me that, in effect, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) has abdicated his responsibility for setting the financial direction this country should take. The provinces, as the hon. member for Don Valley pointed out, are in many cases following budgetary measures that are designed to create full employment, at the same time operating at a deficit, whereas the Minister of Finance is showing a surplus of \$600 million. In many ways the Minister of Finance reminds me of another great explorer, Christopher Columbus. He, too, left his destination not knowing where he was going; when he arrived there he was not sure where he was; and when he returned he could not say where he had been. And like the Minister of Finance, he did it all on borrowed money. I say that this government cannot forever continue to do things by regulations, orders in council and so on. It must do these things through legislation, and it must have meaningful consultations with the members of this House.

When one considers the aims and objects of winter works and provincial participation, it seems to me very strange that there is another government department that has not been allowed apparently to have much input. I refer to the department that is most responsible for our regional development plans and which, by its very nature, participates in infrastructure programs, industrial incentives and capital works programs. This much heralded department, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, to my mind is one that should be taken into account and whose aims and objects should be blended and integrated with any meaningful winter works or capital expenditure program in this country.

In connection with DREE, I should like at this point to refer to some of the policies that we in this party have put forward in what I hope is a constructive manner to further winter works programs, to resolve unemployment problems, and to try to bring some sense of co-ordination and direction to the economic management of this nation. Unfortunately, to this point the policy pronouncements by the minister have been so negligible as to amount to practically nothing. I do not entirely blame the minister; I realize that he has a vast, complex department to adminis-

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ter and that there is great unhappiness, upheaval and dissatisfaction in his department. But surely by this time we are entitled to have on the record of this House some indication of just exactly what the minister intends to do with regard to constructively reorganizing and defining this great new concept of decentralization which he borrowed from our party.

I see it is now five o'clock, Mr. Speaker. Will there be private members' hour or shall I continue?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps I should call it five o'clock at this point.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill C-124, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 (No. 1), without any amendment.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Government House, Ottawa
8 February, 1973

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Gerald Fauteux, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 8th February, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving royal assent to a bill.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Brigadier General

Administrative Secretary to the Governor General

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—Agriculture—Possibility of financial assistance to Saskatchewan land bank program; the hon. member for