

*The Address—Mr. Crouse*

was a record figure last year of 2,030. At this rate, bankruptcy losses by the end of 1977 could easily reach \$600,000 or more. This is why *Maclean's* magazine, in its September 19 issue, carried as its headline "Big Mac's Big Mess". In fact, the article pointed out that neither Walter Gordon, Mitchell Sharp, Edgar Benson or John Turner, "Big Mac's" predecessors, were capable of coming even close to predicting the budget deficit.

Headlines state this year's deficit could be a record \$8 billion, so it is understandable why the finance minister resigned. The whole government should resign, along with the high-priced bureaucratic advisers who have got us into this financial mess. You may well say, "It is easy to criticize, but what do you propose as an alternative?" I just made one proposal—put the senators to work. That would cut down on the money being wasted on royal commissions. That is as good a place as any to start.

The ad hoc measures which have been the hallmark of this government must cease. This country is crying out for leadership. This applies to our citizens whether they are engaged in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, or whether in large or small business. What seems to be lacking is a sense of direction, a forward plan. We need, at the very least, a three-year plan, with an immediate objective in the field of economic management, to strive for stable economic recovery in order to stabilize employment. The present economic situation simply cannot be allowed to continue.

Confidence is lacking. In fact, confidence in Canada has been destroyed. No sensible individual or company will take a chance by investing capital in any industry in Canada when governments at all levels—federal, provincial and municipal—are now spending \$84.2 billion a year, which works out to almost 42 per cent of our \$202 billion gross national product. Twelve months ago, 60 per cent of the economy was still in the private sector. Now it has shrunk to 58.4 per cent. Whether we like it or not, we simply must cut back on the frills. We must cut down unnecessary government spending and rearrange our spending priorities in a manner that will stimulate the private sector.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** No more Mirabels.

**Mr. Crouse:** As one of my colleagues has stated, no more Mirabels, no more \$500 million blunders.

In Atlantic Canada, the fishing industry is crying out for a definite government policy that will encourage its gradual expansion. Despite the declaration of a 200-mile limit on January 1, 1977, some 70 per cent of the fish caught off our coasts is still harvested by foreign fleets. Our packing and processing plants are not operating at capacity. Our fishermen, given the proper equipment, could harvest an estimated \$1 billion a year crop, but they are handicapped by government rules and regulations and by lack of investment capital. There is a growing feeling in Atlantic Canada that the federal government is intentionally delaying the regrowth and develop-

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ment of our fishery in order to accommodate foreign fleets whose countries serve as a market for western wheat and central Canadian industry.

Obviously, the present fisheries minister does not want the Canadian fishing fleet to be rebuilt, because this would require the phasing out of foreign fishing efforts, an action the present government is not prepared to take. How can the present government and its apologists explain the fact that the fishing industry and a development policy for the industry is not even mentioned in the Speech from the Throne? Since we do not have one single Canadian registered ship capable of catching and freezing roundnose grenadier, silver hake, argentines, squid, capelin or offshore mackerel—all species of fish which are soft in texture and which must be frozen as quickly as possible after removal from the ocean—our unemployed citizens are asking why this absurd situation is allowed to continue.

Our unemployed shipbuilders are asking why suitable ships cannot be built. Our unemployed contractors, electricians and plumbers are asking why cold storage facilities cannot be built. They are required right now in places like La Scie and Twillingate, in Newfoundland, and Vogler's Cove in Nova Scotia. Our businessmen are asking why marketing and sales machinery cannot be established, and why fishermen and other required specialists for this new fishery cannot be trained.

The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc) has stated in the press, over television, and yesterday in response to my question in this House, that it is useless to consider rebuilding the fleet at this time, since Canadian ships would simply be replacing foreign ships in depleting the fish stocks on our continental shelf. This is nothing more than nonsense. It is incorrect and untrue. Canadians cannot deplete the species I mentioned, for we do not have one ship of our own with the capability of catching and freezing these fish. However, the foreign fleets have this capability and they also have the markets. While the minister sits in his seat, wrings his hands and tries to make political hay and says nothing can be done, the foreign fleets still continue to denude our banks of fish, while our two major "industries" in Atlantic Canada, namely, welfare and unemployment, continue to expand at an accelerated pace.

The minister and his colleagues are seemingly unaware that if we had started yesterday on the construction of at least two freezer trawlers which are a minimum of 240 feet in length and have a capability of operating in distant areas, it would be two years at least before one new ship would be delivered. In the meantime, our fishermen should be trained to operate freezer trawlers so they can learn the new technology that is required in order to be successful.

To encourage new ship construction or replacements for old ships, we should consider establishing a system of investment allowances as a form of tax remission. To put it briefly, under this system—and this is only to illustrate the principle—if a ship cost \$100 built in Canada, it would be set up on the books at \$175 for depreciation purposes. Investment allowances is a method used extensively in Europe. Because it must be earned,