

the residents of Manitoba that our only Arctic seaport was unlikely to receive any grain this year.

I found the provincial Government had absolutely no concern with what was happening in our province. It was so concerned with the fact that it had a minority Government that it did not dare tell the people of Manitoba what its federal Conservative counterparts were doing. It is not just the federal Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker, it is the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds (Mr. Mayer), the Member of the Cabinet from Manitoba. He is the Minister who is ultimately responsible for grain shipments. He is a Member of Parliament from Manitoba and he has not stood up in this House and announced what is happening. He has not gone to his own province. He has not gone to the farmers within his own province and told them what is happening. It again indicates the lack of any sense of Cabinet responsibility. He is the Minister in charge. He is the Minister from Manitoba and he has not told Manitobans what is happening with a seaport which our pioneers set up many years ago.

This is a seaport which has always had grain coming from the middle part of Saskatchewan because that is where our grain comes from for the Port of Churchill.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Members of the New Democratic Party from Prince Albert—Churchill River (Mr. Funk) and the three Members from Saskatoon and the Members from MacKenzie all realize the value of the Port of Churchill. They have stood up in our caucus and supported the Port of Churchill. I find it amazing that the Saskatchewan Members in the Conservative caucus have not stood up and also spoken in favour of the Port of Churchill.

We are trying to expand trade. Here we are talking about the need to export more grain in this country. We are letting one of our few ports close without the Government showing any concern whatsoever, without the provincial Government in Manitoba even bothering to tell the people of Manitoba what had happened, without the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds telling this House what is happening.

We are not going to let this issue rest. We are going to continue this issue as we have every day so far. We are going to have a community delegation coming and meeting with the Minister of Transport and the Minister in charge of the grains and oilseeds on June 8. I will tell

Borrowing Authority

you, Mr. Speaker, we will not let this issue rest. It is an issue which is very important for all of the prairie provinces. It is very important in terms of our own destiny as a country. It is ironic, to use that word yet again, that other nations, particularly the Russians, are increasing their use of Arctic seaports at the very time that this Government is doing absolutely nothing to promote the North. The Government has given in on the *Polar 8*. It says the project is just delayed because they cannot figure out which end of the ship is the front as opposed to the rear. The Government has given up on any sense of Arctic sovereignty. Now the Government is willing to let our only Arctic seaport not have any grain whatever this year. I find that completely unacceptable.

• (1140)

You indicated that I only had two minutes left, Mr. Speaker. I have to tell you that there are a number of other concerns that Manitobans have outside of the closing of the base in Portage la Prairie and the fact that the Government will not make a commitment to the Port of Churchill. We are also concerned about a number of other things indicated in the Budget. For example, the Established Programs Financing is being limited by this Budget. This is the fourth move by a Government, whether the previous Liberal Government or this Conservative Government, to restrict financing for post-secondary education and health. We have had four different bills over the last seven years introduced in this House of Commons to restrict funding. Obviously, in each case it further restricts funding by the federal Government for these very important areas and that is completely unacceptable.

We know, whether it is in Ontario, Québec, Manitoba, or right across this country, that we have a problem with health services. Each time a Government introduces another piece of legislation which restricts federal contributions, it hurts each and every Canadian who needs health care. Each and every time the Government further restricts its role for post-secondary education that means another child in this country will not get the education that he or she wants. That is the net effect of restricting this money.

The Government's argument is: "Well, we cannot have it open-ended". It never has been open-ended. As I said, the Government of the day has had four different Bills in the House of Commons in the last seven years restricting funding. Each time a Government has done