

## Supply

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 1972-73

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Drury:

That vote L12a, in the amount of \$350,000,000 of the Department of Finance for winter capital projects fund—loans in Supplementary Estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, at five o'clock I was commenting on this government's financial policies in relation to item L12a and mentioning that I personally found it incredible that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) does not believe in forecasting economic conditions. If he truly believes this, then he must be alone among his contemporaries in other nations who hold similar office to his.

I thought that the leader of the New Democratic Party in this coalition government put it pretty well when he said that there was a difference between forecasting and prophesying. With deference, I would say that the Minister of Finance has a duty to forecast and to take the nation into his confidence. Then once having set his goals publicly, he would be able to count on the support of labour, management, provincial and civic administrations, amongst others, to help him achieve what should be common goals for the benefit of all Canadians.

We have had no comment on the policy requests and projections made by organizations such as APEC and the Atlantic Development Council who suggest that a reasonable goal in this region would be 4½ per cent unemployment by 1981. I think that would be a reasonable figure. However, as I was mentioning at five o'clock, we have had very little in the way of policy from the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson). All we have had so far in this session, and indeed for years, from this government, are catch phrases.

When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was minister of justice a few years ago he caught the public's imagination when he said that the state had no business in the bedrooms of the nation. This got him a certain amount of prominence. We now have the Minister of Finance saying that in order to define policies, and so on, he prefers to avoid statistics and to talk in human terms. That sounds good, Mr. Speaker, but what does it mean? I suggest that, like so much of the government's policies, it sounds good but it does not mean very much. If I may quote a phrase used by my colleague for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly), like so much this government does it is "all swank and no knickers".

My party is on record as having made constructive proposals. In a small way, I made some policy proposals myself twice in the month of January since this parliament opened. But we have had no policy commitments or policy objectives put forward by the government, and I suggest that we are not likely to get any.

The current policy for DREE, which is by its very nature vitally interested in capital works projects, and the type of endeavours that this government is attempting with projects in many ways similar to vote L12a about which we are speaking tonight, is formulated, I fear, by

[Mr. Speaker.]

bureaucrats. Let me illustrate what I mean by quoting from a report that is, I submit, very relevant. It covers a matter that is being currently considered by policymakers in DREE and relates to Atlantic Canada's housing policies and what should be done in a meaningful way to implement, shall I say, some of the aims and objectives of the government. Let me quote from the report, which is a current one and which I shall call simply the "Scanada document", to show the House what I consider to be a very good example of what is the ultimate in bureaucratic jargon:

Having realistically primed the Atlantic Canada housing network—

Just get that, Mr. Speaker—"the Atlantic Canada housing network"!

—with demonstrated, "regionalized authoritative responsibility" the federal government would proceed to implement stage two of the proposal. In view of its multiple input, second stage implementation will require skilled timing and sensitive manipulation.

It sounds more like a Masters and Johnson report so far, Mr. Speaker.

Besides majority funding, the federal government's participation will range from firm insistence at one extreme to negotiated compromise at the other.

Isn't that nice?

The report continues:

Under directional control of the newly formed federal-Atlantic Canada Housing Policy Implementation Authority—

Isn't that a nice mouthful?

—teams of proven top flight industrial and financial, managerial and technical skills will be assembled.

This document that I am quoting, as will later appear, has extreme relevance because it is being prepared for government use by highly paid consultants, some of whom, I am led to believe, are not properly authorized under or pursuant to the Official Secrets Act. I also intend to find out what the document cost. I suggest the cost will be very great. However, the best has yet to come. If I may continue to quote from this so-called "Scanada document":

For purposes of this submission, the teams will be referred to as "The Dam Busters" since the name aptly describes their proposed function. Selection and acquisition of the right type of individual will not be cheap or easy, it may even be necessary for the federal government to turn to non-regional-based organizations for assistance.

Now listen to this, Mr. Speaker:

Secondary and/or sub-standard individuals will have to be ruthlessly rejected since under-par performance by the teams will negate the entire revitalizing concept. In scope the "Dam Busters" will represent every direct and indirect activity associated with the housing industry. At predetermined point in time "The Dam Busters" would be simultaneously injected into what there presently "is" of the industry in Atlantic Canada.

That is the type of policy that we are paying to have injected into government policy so as to deal with the very real situation that Atlantic Canada is facing in terms of winter works, housing and so on. If I may just continue to quote this document, it is illustrative of the type of input that is going into DREE as far as regional development policies are concerned. It continues: