

*Government Orders*

"Canadian Pacific Forest Products, Hawkesbury, to close doors after 88 years in the community". The closing of that factory caused the permanent lay-off of 51 employees, 35 of them were lab technicians, scientists and the like. That is a research lab that closed down in my constituency.

We all know how many jobs Canada has been losing since the free trade deal, since the government allowed the dollar to increase so much by propping up our interest rates.

In eastern Ontario, the area I represent, we have also had a loss of federal government programs that would encourage industry to establish in this area of traditionally high unemployment.

Let me describe some of the programs that previously existed. At one point we had a program called the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board, CIRB. There was another program known as the Industrial Regional Development Program, IRDP, as well as the Eastern Ontario Subsidiary Agreement, EOSA. All three of those programs were designed in some way to attract industry to our area so that eastern Ontario could get out of the economic situation that it was in.

All of those programs expired, were cancelled, or were just allowed to disappear. Nothing was reinstated by the government across the way since 1984 so that we could attract jobs to eastern Ontario, the part of the country that I have the honour and privilege to represent in the House of Commons.

Now the government says: "Oh, well, we have adopted"—well, they don't quite put it that way, but the government in the budget says—"we have instituted the Registered Retirement Savings Plan initiative". You know, the one the Liberals asked them to do, the one I talked about a while ago.

That is fine. But what it did not brag about is the fact that it cancelled at the same time the Co-operative Housing Program. Yesterday, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation brought out some numbers which showed quite clearly that the new housing that will be created by the RRSP program is less than the housing that will be lost with the cancellation of the co-op program. In other words, Canadians are net losers as a result of both initiatives being announced at the same time, one good, one bad. That is the situation we are in. People all over this country really thought that the co-op program was here to stay.

• (1340)

[*Translation*]

Particularly in Quebec, for example, we know that the Co-operative Housing Program was very successful. Canadians living in Quebec used this program to build low cost housing that was very useful for many people.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you see, things are not funny. Besides tabling its budget this week, the government gave us its spending plans, or Main Estimates, if you want the technical term.

[*English*]

Here is what was announced in the budgetary estimates. In 1986 the Prime Minister, in Vancouver, after hearing Nancy Reagan make a speech—you know Nancy Reagan, the boss of Ronald Reagan—said: "Canada is suffering from a drug epidemic." Some people scratched their heads and said that perhaps it was an epidemic. I see the Solicitor General is paying close attention to these remarks.

"There is a national drug epidemic," said the Prime Minister. Canadians said that if we have an epidemic and the Prime Minister said so, it must be true. After all, the Prime Minister is notorious for always telling the truth, of course. So we believed him when he said there was a national drug epidemic.

The Prime Minister then develops his national drug strategy. Yesterday when the estimates were tabled, do you know what happened? The national drug strategy was cancelled, which led me to ask a question yesterday in the House of Commons. I asked the Prime Minister, given he had said there was an epidemic in 1986, I wanted to know from him exactly when the epidemic was cured and by whom.

The Prime Minister, of course, did not answer the question. The minister of health stood up and he probably discovered at the same time as I did the program had been cancelled and was kind of stuck without an answer.

Little did I know then, but also another program that was cancelled was the Driving While Impaired Program or the program to stop driving while impaired. Again, a very useful program. It was cancelled in yesterday's budgetary estimates. That leads me to ask the question again: when was this particular epidemic cured and by whom? I invite the Solicitor General to answer that question as well as the others. Perhaps he has an answer and I am sure he will jump up in his seat immediately and answer this very important question.