

*Government Orders*

all their time talking about there not being enough money for the unemployed, for unemployment insurance and no new money to create out there off the so-called money tree for projects. However, here we have a massive megaproject designed to spend \$42 million a year to correct a \$21 million a year problem. It is just as simple as that and I think the member for Annapolis Valley—Hants also has the same position on this issue.

We hear every single day from the Tories and from the Minister of Finance about how they are responsible for fiscal matters of this country. They say that this bridge is needed to Prince Edward Island to save money. I repeat, they are spending \$21 million a year to run a ferry and now they are going to spend \$42 million a year for 35 years to save twice as much money as they are losing.

**Mr. Lewis:** Bridges do not go on strike.

**Mr. Barrett:** Now this is the good thing. The Solicitor General—

**Mr. Lewis:** Bridges will not break down.

**Mr. Barrett:** Bridges do not go on strike. Now is that not interesting. This is very genius-style Tory thinking.

**Mr. Lewis:** Thank you.

**Mr. Barrett:** Bridges do not go on strike. Therefore if we spend \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year we will be avoiding a potential strike. Genius at work. Tory genius supported by the Liberals in this House.

My dear friends, they talk about Tory economics. In the province of British Columbia we have the Lions Gate Bridge that needs maintenance every single year. As a matter of fact, over 50 years they have probably replaced the capital value about five times in simple maintenance.

My dear friends over here, be serious. How serious can you be if you are so dumb as to spend \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year? Do you think I am exaggerating? Just look at the figures and the justification and he says: "Bridges do not go on strike". This is the same kind of stupidity that is putting up all that money for Hibernia so that the American oil companies can benefit.

Who was the consortium that is going to get the money that is being spent? Seventy per cent of the consortium is owned in Great Britain and in the United States.

Prince Edward Island has a population of 125,000 people. If you give them an option of \$8,000 per person and promise not to build the bridge they will take the money. Why give this money to a consortium that is not even in the country to build a bridge—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Is that the NDP policy? Is that your policy?

**Mr. Barrett:** My dear friend, your policy is to spend \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year. You are an ex-Liberal who is now a Tory. You speak out of both sides of your mouth because you both support it. Both the Liberals and the Conservatives support this dumb bill, this missing link policy and it is not going to solve their missing link.

Here are these so-called calm, intelligent, rational, fiscally conservative cabinet ministers screaming at me simply because I am exposing the stupidity of spending \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year. I have never seen the minister of fisheries so worked up since he last kissed a cod. The minister of fisheries, who finds more ways of going around and getting into trouble, has found another one today and that is he is not attacking anybody. He is throwing money away.

I find it interesting that these so-called responsible Conservatives actually go around the country saying: "Oh, we cannot spend money on day care". No, that goes towards kids. "Oh, we cannot spend money to create jobs", although it goes to men and women. "Oh, yes we would like to help the native people", but they do not have any money for that. As for old age security they have to have a clawback. It has to save all this money so it can spend \$42 million a year to save \$21 million a year. Suckers like that were what P.T. Barnum described as an abnormal birth rate. This unbelievable stupidity manifests itself out of this government with support of the Liberals. This is the tacit coalition that goes along in this country. The Liberals and the Tories have no monopolies on dumb-bells. They have a common interest in them.

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Why are they spending this money? What are the economic benefits? Reveal the environmental studies. The company that is going to benefit is 70 per cent