

Look at what has happened to some of the basic industries like agriculture and the fishing industry. We all know the experiences of the livestock industry in the last few years. What has happened to the agricultural industry? In the last five years the net farm debt has increased from \$4.3 billion to \$8.5 billion. The Minister of Agriculture has said that farmers have never had it so good. If they have it good today, it is only because they have borrowed themselves into that position. What have we done to improve our capability in the area of processing agricultural and fishery products? We have done little or nothing, certainly not enough, and what we have appropriated for these important basic industries in Canada has been nothing more than promises.

The other day we had a debate in the House on the question of science and technology, research and development. There is no question in anybody's mind that the stability and strength of any economy are based upon the ability to research and develop new methods of technology. We have failed miserably in that regard. We all remember the election campaign of 1974 and the lofty promises made at that time. We remember those particularly with respect to transportation. We were told we would have a complete restructuring of the ports and harbours in this country; we were going to do away with all the freight rate inequities and anomalies, and we were going to engage in a very aggressive urban transportation program, which has since been scrapped.

The promise was that the total grain handling system from the granary to the ships and harbours would be revamped and new systems introduced. What do we have today? We have two dozen ships waiting in the port of Vancouver. We cannot move our grain. The cost of that failure is coming out of the pockets of producers, the farmers of Canada. It is costing millions of dollars, and the government is spending money on stupid trash like a study of air breathing fish in the Amazon River. There must be some dramatic changes in this country. The government has failed miserably to direct attention to the basic, gut issues of this country. The philosophical approach which it has used has certainly not augured well for the average Canadian citizen.

● (1432)

I could go on about transportation and economic development, particularly as it relates to western Canada, because there is much to be done. We do not need any more studies or hearings. The issues have all been very well thrashed out. The recommendations are very clear. The government says it agrees, but it does nothing. Of the 92 recommendations in the Hall report only six have been acted upon. It is no wonder that the Science Council of Canada had this to say about Canadian industrial prospects, and I quote from a document entitled "Uncertain Prospects" published by the Science Council of Canada, with regard to the Canadian manufacturing industry from 1971 to 1977:

Canadian industry is chronically and gravely ill. Indeed, the country, industrially, is rapidly falling behind other nations, and, by default, placing its hopes for the future on a resource sector, which, in its present form, is inadequate to the

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task of raising or even maintaining the standard of living which most Canadians take for granted.

Is it any wonder that we are given that damning indictment? The Canadian dollar is at its lowest value in 45 years. We have the highest rate of unemployment since the depression. Inflation is running at 9.5 per cent to 10 per cent. One can only conclude that this has to be the worst government we have had since Confederation. The excessive growth of government and the attitude of this particular government have affected the lives and welfare of all Canadians. They have stymied our attempts to occupy our rightful place in the industrialized world.

Mr. Speaker, I know you have allowed me latitude to talk about these matters, but we are dealing here with government expenditures and the manner in which money is being spent or misspent. Having recognized the fact that it is in serious trouble in terms of its ability to control and manage the financial affairs of this country, the government has finally heeded the advice of the Auditor General and introduced a bill which will create the position of comptroller general. However, there is much more to be done, and we should not be falsely led into the belief that this will be a cure-all.

We must look for example at means of establishing appropriate incentives for those engaged in the Public Service to operate efficiently. We have to look seriously at the senior echelon of the bureaucracy and make it more accountable for its actions. When we are talking about \$48 billion to \$50 billion of government expenditures in a year, that boils down to a little less than \$200 million per constituency, and we must ask ourselves what our constituencies are getting for that amount of money. I think we have an excellent public service, but there must be instilled within the minds of public servants the importance of discharging their responsibilities with pride, excellence, and efficiency. I hope the comptroller general will address himself to that because efficiency is of paramount importance.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but I must inform him that his allotted time has expired. Nevertheless, he may continue if there is unanimous consent. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the courtesy of the House, and I shall not abuse it. Perhaps the most important role of government is the allocation of human and financial resources in the most effective and equitable manner possible, having due regard to the national goals and the economic and regional realities of the time. This requires not only a competent public service but also a competent government and a competent mechanism in parliament wherein checks and balances can be firmly in place and effectively utilized.

We cannot expect our public servants to behave responsibly if the government of the day does not behave responsibly. If