

acquisition and refurbishment program over the 1983-84 to 1987-88 period. That is a commendable initiative.

As the Hon. Member may recall, contracts for six 1100 series light icebreakers worth over \$300 million were awarded in August; one in Nova Scotia, two in Quebec, one in Ontario and two in British Columbia. It is estimated that by 1987-88, the program will have generated employment of some 20,000 person-years in shipyards across the country. In June the Canadian Patrol Frigate \$2.4 billion contract was awarded to Saint John Shipbuilding in New Brunswick. Work on the six frigates will be performed in both Saint John and in Montreal. It is estimated that this program will generate some 30,000 person-years of employment over the next eight years. The Hon. Member will also recall the award by CN Marine in February, 1983 of a \$122 million contract to Davie Shipbuilding for the construction of a ferry.

I see, Mr. Speaker, you are giving me a signal to hurry. I could not possibly continue through all the pages of specific programs that have been undertaken.

I conclude by saying that the Hon. Member is right in his concern and wrong in his facts. We have recognized the difficulty. We have been ready to stimulate the private sector through Government assistance. Tory calls to attack the deficit and to cut Government spending would attack programs just like these.

NATIONAL REVENUE—FILM ON DEPARTMENT'S USE OF
COMPUTER—APPEARANCE OF DEPUTY MINISTER ON
TELEVISION PROGRAM. (B) DEPARTMENT'S TREATMENT OF
TAXPAYERS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, on Monday evening last, January 30, a film was shown on the CBC which was produced at the expense of Revenue Canada by the National Film Board. One wonders why the National Film Board, which presumably is there to improve the culture of Canada, should be producing documentary films for the Revenue Department. Nevertheless, the program "Excuse me, there is a computer asking for you" was produced at a cost of \$190,000 to show Canadians the attitude of the Government toward them.

● (1820)

Indeed, the film depicts the ordinary Canadian as a sheepish victim of a supercilious, smug, all powerfull machine that never sleeps. Perhaps that is what we have become. The viewer instantly identifies with the little people; with Harry the wage earner, with Jenny the housewife, with Bob the handyman and the nameless antique shop proprietor, who are all just little fish trying to get along, like you and I.

The computer, by contrast, was depicted as having supernatural skills; all meaning, all seeing, capable, almost God-like, of finding you and talking to you and keeping track of you. It is big brother visited upon us. Indeed, the computer is so competent that it can say that it not only knows about your tax affairs, it knows that your truck needs a brake job.

Adjournment Debate

An even worst test of taste is when the computer says, "Better drive carefully, I would not want to lose you now, I finally found you." What a threat! Picture a fellow with a zootsuit and the mod look saying, "I would not want to lose you now, I found you. You better drive carefully, better pay your taxes, better do what I ask you do to and you better do what I tell you to do." It is frightening.

I asked the Minister if Bruce MacDonald, his deputy minister, had his permission to go on the CBC program, and the Minister indicated that he had. Indeed, he indicated that Bruce MacDonald was speaking for the Department, answering the Department's concerns. That deputy minister, speaking for the Government, says that the Government viewed the film properly and that was the Government's attitude. That was his indication. That disturbed me.

In my supplementary question I asked the Minister if he felt that the only way the Government could collect taxes would be to push Canadians, treat Canadians if they were crooks, no goods and defaulters and that they would not pay if they were harassed. The Minister said that he did not quite feel that way but he felt that the film was doing something good.

To be fair to the Minister, he has now seen some of the errors of his ways and has attempted to withdraw the film. I say that the Minister should not be entitled to withdraw the film. We have paid \$190,000 to have this film produced. I say that the people of Canada ought to be able to see this film; they should be able to see what the Government thinks of them; that the Government feels they must be spied on and treated as if they are no goods and cheats. The Government will keep track of them and determine whether their cars need fixing. It must determine whether someone should come into an office and pay penalties.

● (1825)

I was privileged to get a copy of the transcript of film and I should like to read two or three parts of it into the record. It states that "people like Harry are not amusing, are they? They think they are dealing with a pocket calculator. Really, what they don't know I guess is that by forgetting to report income they can wind up in a lot of trouble". Then it refers to Jenny and says, "It is tax time again and I wondered if you remembered that you rented your home." The computer says, "He thinks there is no record, silly. There are public records everywhere."

The attitude that people be spied upon, that people be harassed, that people be threatened are not attitudes that governments should take toward ordinary Canadians, but those are the attitudes expressed in the film by the Minister and by the Government. For that reason, the Government must go.

Mr. Garnet M. Bloomfield (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has already indicated to the House that the film in question was aimed at a small minority of taxpayers, while fully realizing that the majority of Canadians do pay their full share of taxes