

Borrowing Authority

for inclusion in the duty remission program, something without which they would not have located anywhere else. What happened? Well, the feds got in the act and under pressure from the Government the company's German task force, which had already studied plant sites all over Canada, had to fly back and inspect a site in Montreal. After two years of delay when interest rates were nothing like they are now, nor anything else, the Government finally gave its approval for location of the plant in the one place Volkswagen wanted to go to begin with, namely, the City of Barrie. But now the whole thing is up in the air because of financial considerations, when it could have all been done and finished with. All of that is so unnecessary.

Civic and business officials in my riding are also aware of the problems encountered by prospective employers who have to deal with Government, particularly with FIRA and the anti-U.S. policies which have come from across the way, when what we so desperately need in this country is investment. On at least two occasions, potential employers were discouraged from pursuing plant establishment in my riding because of the nature of questions and obstacles erected in front of them. However, with assistance and encouragement from those local officials we have had some of it done at no extra cost in money or time.

I would like you, Mr. Speaker, to take a look at the way we are chasing away investment in this country and the way we are throwing money at problems. In my area, General Tire spent an estimated \$17 million on expansion to build radial tires. What did the Government do? It gave a \$51 million grant to another plant in Nova Scotia. That is what the Government wants to do, it wants to take away from the private sector and give it to the public sector. Why? What we need is jobs, new industry and productivity. What we need is renewed confidence in the Government. The Auditor General's Report reveals that the Government is the second most profligate spender in the entire free world, second only to that of Italy. Much of this spending is by the Government created sub-Governments which the Auditor General calls Crown Corporations. They are unaudited and ludicrous. Big budgets lead to big deficits, like the \$19 billion borrowing that we are talking about here, and they lead to big unemployment. But this big Government has not learned, so it continues to spend and spend and borrow and borrow. We as Canadians must realize that we are in a period of low productivity. We need reduced spending and then tax incentives to stimulate an increased productivity, not studies and "Big Mac" commissions.

There are only two ways in which we can stimulate a sluggish economy, that is by getting the taxpayer to spend on consumer goods, and by using research and development and other things which are at hand to increase our exports. It is not accomplished by dead-end, make-work projects, Mr. Speaker. Our problems are not solved by throwing money at them. It is done, as I said, by incentives, by increasing consumer goods production and by increasing our export markets.

Every Government makes a lot of changes to benefit someone, but as much Government interference as we have seen in the last 15 years in Canada, particularly in the last three years, costs a lot more than it benefits. This Government wants \$19 billion at a time when it has interfered again and again, just lately in Bill C-139. It has interfered with a National Energy Program, it has interfered with the banks, and has stimulated nothing. It is readily bandied about that Government spending now amounts to some 40 per cent of the Gross National Product. This adds up very succinctly to too much Government intervention and Government spending. This last decade in particular has seen massive Government interference in the Canadian economy, to our great detriment. That is why we are now looking at another borrowing Bill of \$19 billion. The Government bought a private corporation, Petrofina, for \$1.7 billion. Canadair was assisted to the tune of \$1.5 billion.

I could go on and on but I see you are giving me the nod. Well, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is: keep borrowing and borrowing and spending and spending and you will be placing a legacy of debt not only on my children, the children of other people here in this Chamber and all Canadians, but on our grandchildren, all because we will not face the fact that we need to increase productivity and cut out waste.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak at report stage of Bill C-143, an Act to provide supplementary borrowing authority in the neighbourhood of \$19 billion, \$5 billion of which has already been spent. But the Government has not told us what it plans to do with the balance of \$14 billion. Certainly we on this side of the House in the NDP will not authorize the Government to spend an additional \$14 billion in the way it has been spending in the past, not without a budget to outline the programs the Government is planning on initiating. We must remember that the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada, who are closely associated with the other banks and the railways and so on, are advising the Governor of the Bank of Canada, and for him to come out and say the policies of this Government must remain in place is unbelievable, especially for the unemployed across Canada, the people in need of an industrial strategy which will bring about the stimulation the Government has not seen fit to provide.

Recently the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) has been coming before the committee and making statements across Canada about some very basic changes in the transportation system. While we agree that these programs must be updated, we do not agree with the method the Government is using of abolishing the Crowsnest Agreement and giving hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to the railways for upgrading, without receiving any equity or any firm commitments from the railways.

I have in front of me a copy of CP Rail News which shows some of the programs they are planning. They talk about how \$39 million funded by the federal Government will be spent to continue the rehabilitation of prairie branchlines. This has been going on year after year. It says, as a prime example, that