

Private Members' Business

that municipal governments have been involved. However, municipal governments are restricted according to the municipal act. They are not allowed to put an infusion of their own moneys in to create jobs in their own municipalities. The money has to come from either the provincial government or the federal government.

• (1730)

Historically both levels of government have provided municipalities with moneys and job creation programs. This is nothing new. It is something that municipalities have taken advantage of for a good number of years.

The major problem that municipalities have been faced with over the years in this area is the fact that the governments provided this infusion of money, put up the money for a capital project and then withdraw its support. The municipality is left holding the bag. Who carries the operating costs? All of a sudden the municipalities have a project that is under way and they are having to draw from a tax base that is only coming from the property tax.

One program I would like to mention that is absolutely deplorable, that is presently in place by this government, is called "project haven". It comes under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The corporation puts up the money for a co-operative venture or a municipal venture to build a home for battered women in Canada, but it only provides the capital cost. Then the organization is left with the possibility of trying to raise money and trying to gather funds together. On average, a project of that nature needs approximately \$300,000 a year. It is very difficult in today's age to try and fund raise \$300,000 a year by a hand full of volunteers. Yet the need for this project is great in Canada today. I strongly suggest that the government start moving to provide operating funds for that.

The private sector and the entrepreneurial spirit have always been very much in the forefront in Canada. Again, they have in many instances relied on government for this infusion of money. This was started by a Liberal government, not by a Conservative government. We were the ones that made the road marks in this area. Again this is not something new.

I commend the member for bringing this forward. I just think that we have to carry it a little bit further. We have to document this a little further. We have to see where these funds are going to come from and be more specific. Let us not chop it off at the knees and leave somebody holding the bag.

We talk about the economy, job creation and the environment. The infrastructure program should be in place across this country today, and it is not. Jobs would be created and protection of the environment would happen, yet this government refuses to put any money into that program. This was something that since the 1930s was supported by a Liberal government. It was a tripartite agreement.

Our Trans-Canada Highway was built by the federal government. Once it was built it was handed over to the province. It is falling apart. It needs three levels of government to maintain it. There are cities and towns that have no sewage treatment plants. Our rivers, lakes and oceans are being polluted.

I ask the government to take action. Let us create jobs in this country. Let's protect our environment. I applaud this motion, but let us make it a little tighter.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak to the motion of the Hon. Member for Prince Albert—Churchill River and to my government's policy of assisting farm operations. Since the Hon. Member's motion is rather long and varied, I would like to discuss my government's concerns and what it has been doing for the agricultural industry.

As an example of the government's understanding of the essential role played by the agricultural sector in our economy, I may mention that on October 4 this year, our Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of State (Agriculture) and the Minister for International Trade (Messrs. Mulroney, Mazankowski, Blais and Crosbie) met Mr. Jacques Proulx, president of the Union des producteurs agricoles, the UPA executive and a number of senior officials of his organization.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, our government, with the United States, has been vindicated in the yogurt and ice cream case at GATT. Our government has just delegated a commission, chaired by the president of the Canadian