

*Government Orders*

This draconian report also irresponsibly attacks other sectors of our economy such as agriculture, atomic energy and transportation. However, I think the other single most offensive recommendation is the suggested further two cent a litre increase in gasoline tax to be funnelled into a fund to improve the sustainability of Canada's transportation.

We emphatically oppose the use of the government's taxing power to impose behavioural changes upon Canadians because it robs Canadian industry of our natural advantage which allows us to compete in the global marketplace in spite of the great distances we have to transport goods to market.

In conclusion, I urge the finance minister to reject these recommendations from this committee of environmental extremists and instead look at the list of those supporting tar sands development. The list includes the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Association of Urban Municipalities, the Canadian Labour Movement and the Canadian Manufacturers Association. It goes on and on. Clearly the mayor of the city of Hamilton, Mayor Morrow, has more sense than his own member of Parliament.

• (1845)

I urge the minister to reject the recommendations of the environment committee and adopt the recommendations of the task force on tar sands development.

**Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have the opportunity to present on behalf of the people of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt thoughts, ideas and constructive suggestions for the Liberals before they bring down our federal government's next budget.

My constituents and I feel incredibly lucky to be able to state our case. My constituents and I, indeed everyone in British Columbia and in western Canada, know that the Liberals do not listen to Canadians. Today I have a few short, golden moments to share with the Liberal Party of Canada. I would like the Liberals to sit there like wicked little children on a detention in grade school and listen to me.

My files are full of thoughts, views and opinions Canadians would have me suggest to the Liberals in the prebudget forum. However I only have a few minutes. As I have seen in the last few months since coming to Ottawa to represent the good people of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, the Liberals will not listen to me anyway. They do not listen to anyone.

Yesterday the Liberals should have listened to the Canadian people. We said: "Give Canadians the veto". The Liberals did not listen and gave the separatist government leader the veto.

I know the Minister of National Defence will not listen to what I have to say about his mismanagement of his cabinet portfolio. Since the balmy days of this past summer I have uncovered over \$100 million in questionable spending of taxpayers' money by the minister and his senior management team.

The auditor general states in his report that the recommendations made to this minister are not acted upon. The 1994 report of the auditor general declared that DND takes about five years to address something the auditor general says, if DND does anything at all about the auditor general's report.

The Minister of National Defence ignores the auditor general. He sends our troops to Bosnia. The present Liberal government and previous governments have been consistently increasing demands on our Canadian Armed Forces. At the same time they have cut the budget for those very armed forces.

Recent reports from the auditor general and the 12th report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts point to hundreds of millions of dollars of waste and inefficiency in the Department of National Defence. That is how the Minister of National Defence runs his department.

In my view the most outrageous fact that I have found recently is the Canadian aerospace training project where defence department estimates concerning the cost of training a single student were miscalculated, undervalued by \$500,000. This is the kind of thing the Liberal Minister of National Defence has coming across his desk. This information is also on my desk. Canadians know this kind of mismanagement exists and they want something done about it.

I would like to ask the minister, and I will not beg today, to pay some attention to his department, to get hold of his senior management team and find some money to send with the Canadians who are going to Bosnia.

Our military engineers from Chilliwack, British Columbia, need flashlights. They are in the business of defusing mines. They are issued with big, cumbersome flashlights. They use pen lights to view through tiny cracks in very small places to detect mines or see them more clearly in order to defuse them. They need to hold a small flashlight between their teeth. What do they do? They go to Home Hardware, Canadian Tire or Army Surplus and buy with their own money the small, pen size flashlights they need.

• (1850)

When I was in Bosnia the most common thing I heard were kit problems. The soldiers were not complaining. They were having problems because the kit they were issued lacked the things they needed. Meanwhile, the Minister of National Defence tells the House and the Canadian public that our troops have everything they need.