

The Economy

the letter, because of adjustments in the department's budget, there will be no funds available for that project before fiscal year 1979-80. What a weird administration! Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on the preparation of a project and when the time comes to see it through the whole thing flops and you have to start from scratch again. That is the very type of administration we now have.

I was talking about Air Canada and the fact that it costs \$100 to fly to Florida whereas for the same distance within Canada you have to pay \$200 or \$300.

In public works, for example in the case of the CBC, another governmental agency, the same thing has happened. Fabulous amounts of money have been spent and the public does not even know what is going on in Canada where, day after day, we ask questions in the House, we deliver speeches and the CBC systematically refuses to report what happens in the House. They are playing a political game. They systematically refuse to present the point of view of a fourth party in the House of Commons. And we pay for administrations like those! As for paying, as for raising the subventions to those corporations, no problem! Bills and budgets are submitted to us every year, and every year we have to raise the budgets of those corporations while at the same time downgrading the services they give us.

I was talking about regulations a moment ago. The government is adding too many regulations to the laws after they are passed. We had this situation in unemployment insurance where it was agreed that people over 65, for example, could draw unemployment insurance benefits and where, under the law, some bureaucrats decide by themselves to enact a regulation cancelling the law and they put this regulation into force. We see that constantly in most of the acts in which, through the play of regulations, the government tries to circumvent the law, tries to fiddle with it, and even after three cases were won before the courts for those people of 65, the government comes again with another bill to justify regulations previously passed by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Present government measures will require fortunes to be spent and will not solve the problem. Today we know that we have an unemployment problem across the country. The only solution the government has found so far was to introduce band-aid programs, investing money in an attempt, was it said, to reduce unemployment. Year after year it became obvious that unemployment was still growing and in many cases, instead of reducing unemployment, the government was increasing it. That is the case with the Canada Works Program, for instance, where in a riding like mine, the rate of unemployment has reached 21.8 per cent, where only 57.6 per cent of the people work; and we ask the minister to invest money, not to spend it to give short term jobs of eight, ten or 12 weeks, but to invest money to build plants, to create companies that could finance themselves later on, to launch and help small businesses.

Instead they prefer to give \$1,658,000 for Canada Works projects as they did in my riding. That in fact enables us to create 314 jobs for a certain period of time, but after, what do

you get? Nothing at all! The government did not try to help those who are now filling applications for employment. Small businesses have been providing permanent employment for several decades but with the proliferation of taxation forms nowadays they must spend 30 to 35 per cent of their revenues and their time only to fill those forms which increase their production costs. So they have to reduce their staff to make ends meet and operate efficiently. The government does not help those small businesses. In big businesses it is the same situation.

A few days ago I made a suggestion to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) about mining in northwestern Quebec where Noranda Mines might be in serious trouble next year, if not this year, because of an insufficient supply of ore. Mining production in northern Ontario has been reduced and we know that in many cases, because of transportation costs, it is cheaper to process western copper in Japan than in Canada not because of production costs as such but because it is more expensive to ship copper to the east of the country than to Japan. Recently I urged the department to set special rates to promote employment for Canadians and I asked for special freight rates for the transportation of western ore to eastern Canada where our processing costs are competitive with those of any other country but where the problem is one of transportation cost.

I received a letter from the minister telling me that my proposition was good but that they were not about to make special concessions in the transportation field. In the meantime, imports are allowed in across the country, the doors are wide open, jobs are destroyed. We had that problem in the shoe industry. Every day we get letters from producers who would be quite ready to increase production if only the government would leave them alone, if it ceased overtaxing them, if it reduced the ever growing pile of forms to be supplied.

Everyday we get some. I received one not later than today. Washing machine manufacturers were facing in 1966 a 37.6 per cent competition from imports, and produced 31,203 units. In 1976, the last year for which data are available, 43,293 were made in Canada, while imports accounted for 78.6 per cent of sales. The government on the one hand reduces our production, it reduces producer efficiency through government intervention, and on the other it allows massive imports. With such an approach, understandably unemployment has reached astronomical levels, as in my area for instance. We have reached 21.8 per cent, and this is no joke.

And it is still less funny that 57.6 per cent of the people only are at work. So, 57.6 deducted from 100 per cent leaves 42.4 per cent of the people not working, not producing for the country. Of that number, 21 per cent get unemployment insurance benefits, but where are the others? Yet the government does not find a way to invest or help existing corporations reduce their costs. Instead we have social measures, band-aids. That is the attitude of this government now.

What are the solutions? First, to help those small businesses, lower interest rates on the money they borrow. They are no longer able to operate with their own money, they have to