

*Canadian Economy*

alternative, as we see it now, is escalation of the present situation and the resulting damaging effects it can have on the country.

To turn to another subject, I understand that the government is going to relocate some of its federal operations from the capital city of Ottawa to Montreal. I fail to see how this can be a priority at the present time. We are continuing to put up more and more government skyscrapers. One has only to look at the situation in Hull, where the process is never-ending. There is already a printing bureau in Hull with a work force of up to 1,500, including the Olympic coin packaging unit. There are 2,000 employees of the Department of the Environment and Fisheries. I also understand there is going to be a \$17 million parking garage constructed in Hull. The government talks of energy conservation and leaving cars at home; we are trying to encourage people to use buses, yet the government builds a \$17 million parking garage.

A report was published two years ago which indicated the government was going to construct a \$10 million parking garage on Parliament Hill. If its estimated cost was \$10 million two years ago it is easy to imagine what it would cost today. Whether this is going to go ahead I do not know, but one area of cut back would certainly be the elimination of the \$17 million parking garage in Hull.

Another construction phase in Hull is to be occupied by the Department of Supply and Services; it will cost \$98 million, with phase IV budgeted at \$63 million. Unspecified government departments will be major tenants of Campeau Corporation's Le Terasse de la Chaudiere, to be completed in 1979 at a cost of \$160 million. I should like to know when government restraint is going to appear. I suggest government members have a lot of nerve to criticize opposition members for making no suggestions. I have made some suggestions today, and on another occasion I shall have a long list of examples of mismanagement and of programs that can be cut out.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if I may, I should like at the outset to re-read the motion, because after listening to some members I got worried and I shall say why after I have read the motion.

The motion read by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) states:

That this House considers the government has lacked foresight and leadership in the conduct of the affairs of Canada and should be blamed for its failure to fulfil its promise of a fair and just society and to prevent the deterioration of the social climate, and its failure to stop the alarming increase in unemployment, to introduce measures other than price and wage control, to prevent the actual rate of inflation and to make loans available to the provinces at an interest rate not exceeding the cost of administration.

I read the motion, Mr. Speaker, because the hon. member for Richmond read it, then gave us a rather long lecture. He even talked about capital punishment and all the crimes committed in the United States. That was one of the reasons why I wanted to read the motion. As for the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk), he did not start his speech by reading the motion, but the whole time he was on his feet he spoke highly of a free society, of free enterprise.

● (1720)

Then I heard the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) who spoke a little about unemployment but who particularly tried to impress the House with his reference to the natural resources of his province and to what he would do once those resources would be nationalized. Afterwards, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Martin) spoke not only to the motion, but he took a few minutes to tell us exactly what had just been going on. I much appreciated it and I would ask the other members who did not pay attention as they should have to those comments to go over them after they are printed. Then we heard the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert). He probably brought back a few memories to several of us when he recalled the 1929 crash which rocked the United States, but he dealt primarily with a matter with which he is quite familiar and which he often refers to, whether before the house committees or here in this House, and that is the banking system now in operation in Canada. In his opinion, there are shortcomings in our system.

I will return to that if time permits. As for the comments of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie), I must more particularly dwell on them. He showed the House he has a quality no one knew he had. And I must say that two documents I am now holding total 489 pages. It is the Auditor General's report to the House of Commons. It was tabled today. As I said, there are 177 pages to the first part and 312 to the second. The hon. member could summarize all that and had assimilated it in about fifteen minutes. Moreover, he really convinced us that he had discovered the help we give underdeveloped countries and I could not understand his position, whether he approved or not.

I should like to deal with the motion moved by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin). He regrets the lack of leadership of the present government. In the time that was allowed to him, probably against his way of thinking, he proved there is much leadership in Canada. To be able to criticize, structures must necessarily be set up. He lingered over that in a way which, I admit, seemed to him most deserving. He talked about the standing committees of the House to which I should like to turn my attention for a few moments. I have not had the opportunity, probably because I do not sit on the same committees, of seeing him often, particularly at those parliamentary committees considering precise matters. He might very well sit on other committees. We never meet. I have not had the opportunity to see him at these committee meetings.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, 21 parliamentary committees have been set up and have been operating differently ever since this government came to power. The Social Credit Party of Canada is quite willing to be part of them and as I indicated earlier the hon. member for Bellechasse does so; there has been at least 2,500 sittings and I am somewhat concerned about the fact that the hon. member for Richmond has stated that ministers are never present. On any parliamentary committee which requires the presence of ministers, the minister will attend, together with his assistants and departmental officials, to answer the questions which hon. members from from all the parties represented in the House may care to ask. In my opinion, this is