

Supply

booze and everything else is paid for by the taxpayers of Canada. Try telling that to a single parent who is having such a tough time feeding her child that I have to get food for her from the Salvation Army. Can that be explained through an advertising campaign? Not on your life, Mr. Speaker.

I will wind up my remarks by quoting from a book that sums up the advertising campaigns and programs of the federal government. It was written by a public relations man, an adman. The book is entitled "The Government Party. Organizing and Financing the Liberal Party of Canada, 1930-58". I think it probably sums up in this sentence what the Liberals are trying to do with their advertising:

Jello isn't very solid either, but they sell a hell of a lot of it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take part in this debate today because I realize the necessity of the Government of Canada communicating with the citizens of this great nation. When the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) was speaking of the stand that party has taken on the issue of the Crow I wondered if they had told the people of Saskatchewan and western Canada that the federal government's total contribution to grain transportation since 1970 has been \$1,798,000,000. Have they told them of the steps that the federal government has taken to subsidize and expedite the movement of grain over the past decade whereby it paid over \$1 billion in branch line subsidies alone? In 1973 the government purchased 8,000 hopper cars at a cost of \$258 million. Do the people of western Canada know this? These are some of the reasons that the government has had to take out such advertisements to communicate with the people of Canada.

Since March of 1974 the government has shared with the railways half the cost of rehabilitating 7,215—

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) rises on a point of order.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member allow a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Ferguson) accept a question?

Mr. Ferguson: After my 20 minutes is up, Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to entertain any questions the hon. member might have.

Between 1968 and 1982 the government spent \$23,957,000 for improvements at Churchill, Manitoba, and it committed \$30 million for the site development of the grain terminal at Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

Has the hon. member told Canadians that the government is prepared to contribute \$3.2 billion for the movement of grain

over the next four years? Has he explained that the government wants to replace existing legislation with a new statutory framework?

It has become increasingly clear in the last several years that the majority of western constituents want a change in the Crow. The government wants to hear and, as much as possible, to accommodate the views of the affected parties. In order to find a solution which is fair and acceptable the government has decided on a course of consultation with western farm organizations and railways. It has appointed Dr. Clay Gilson of the University of Manitoba to lead these consultations.

These are some of the reasons why the government has had to advise the Canadian people of the direction it is taking. It is not being done by the opposition parties. In fact, I was approached just recently by a resident of one of the western provinces. He asked me about a clipping that appeared in one of the riding's newspapers quoting an MP from the area. He told me that he was furious as well as almost sick to his stomach at the garbage, at the poisonous effect this garbage was having on the politics of the province. He said that the WCC party must be gleeful as the devil at this drivel as it confirms all their worst paranoid fears of shadows in the dark. He said that he did not know what I or this House could do about such irresponsible nonsense but he hoped and prayed that something could be done to calm the waters and remove the poison.

It is for such reasons that the Government of Canada has had to launch a campaign to advise the Canadian people of what is happening in this great nation and to point out the direction that the government is taking, and its aims, objectives and hopes for this great nation.

The Canadian Unity Information Office tabled estimates for the fiscal year 1982-83 of \$25.4 million. Last year's budget was \$32.6 million and it included an \$8.9 million supplementary estimate for a constitutional information program which was approved in the parliamentary committee last December.

There is another matter that I should put straight, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) mentioned that the metric system was brought in by the first Prime Minister of this nation, Sir John A. Macdonald. It seems an irony that "operation humbug" started in the city where this great Prime Minister had his residence. The minister overlooked the fact, however, that on November 15, 1979, through order in council No. PC 1793093, a weights and measures regulation order in council was put through by the government of the day, headed by the Right Hon. Joe Clark.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. With all respect, it is customary to refer to hon. members by their constituency or their function.

Mr. Ferguson: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. It was the prime minister of the day.