

present this overlap costs the region about \$10 million a year.

If you can believe it, Mr. Speaker, when we were in the meeting with the regional committee and the social service representatives, the member for Burlington incredibly said: "As I understand it, those UI cheques are getting out to the claimants in two or three weeks." You can imagine the groan that brought from the social service workers from the region sitting at the table.

They have both promised the health and social service committee of the regional municipality of Hamilton—Wentworth that they would look into the problem and report back. In fact the Minister of State for Transport at that time said she would get back before their next meeting. The matter was shuffled off to another department.

Yes, the minister did get back on the very day of the next meeting, if you can imagine, having that committee wait for the fax to sing out her message at the nth hour, to say essentially what she had said at the committee, "This is a wonderful idea. Why don't I take it back with me and do something about it for you". Well she did. She forwarded it on to another department. We have not heard from them since.

In so doing, both these individuals have failed their constituents and Hamiltonians who rely on them as their voice from our area. They have also failed the government since the region asked to be used as a test case for this type of procedure which would have saved the federal government millions of extra dollars.

My time is short so I want to wrap up by saying that Canadians are, without any doubt, outraged with the economic and fiscal policies of this government. This government does not have the confidence of the constituents of Hamilton West or those everyday Canadians living sea to sea to sea.

The recession that Canadians are still suffering through today got started a long time before the U.S. recession. Canadians know ours is a made-in-Canada recession, induced by the economic and fiscal policies of this government.

Canadians are tired of this government and if we could, tomorrow, on a vote on this matter stand up and defeat the government, we will welcome an election to

Government Orders

take them on today, at the polls, just to see what the true feeling is of the Canadian public.

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member a question concerning the borrowing authority and the proper expenditure of funds.

On the coast of British Columbia on the west coast of Canada the government proposes to de-staff a number of light stations, to remove their eyes and ears as it were. That de-staffing was reportedly proposed to save the government money. In fact, it exposed those areas to vandalism, to very expensive repairs and in fact in the long haul would have likely have cost as much as it had saved.

• (1640)

At the same time it would have blown a very large hole in the safety net of British Columbia. Those light keepers keep in radio communication with ships and aircraft, with tourists in the area who run into all kinds of difficulties, with charter boats and fishers, sports fishing folks. It is a tremendous part of the Canadian west coast safety transportation net.

There is another proposal that the government is going to attempt to carry out to save money and it is going to be catastrophic. It is the closure of the Cape St. James weather station about mid-point on the coast of British Columbia in the Pacific Ocean. The closing of that light station is going to mean a tremendous loss of weather reporting and information. It is going to be an absolute disaster.

The government has decided it would cancel the program to de-staff those light stations. But there must be a continuing expenditure on upgrading those services so that the lives and safety of British Columbians on the west coast of Canada can be protected by proper transportation safety infrastructure.

At some of the light stations, there needs to be a vessel to render aid to mariners in the area and there needs to be a method of launching those vessels. The government needs to put in VHF radio equipment so that the keepers can talk to aircraft and people at sea in the area. There also needs to be proper updated weather equipment so that regular weather reporting can be given from these areas so people who are flying in the area or