

I want to pick up on something else the minister said, referring to the bill. "It will stimulate creativity and innovation. It will allow the industry to take advantage of unanticipated sales opportunities, no longer constraining potential cost savings".

I would like the minister to tell that to the 1,200 workers who hold jobs connected with this legislation. Tell that to the 320 transport workers and the 295 who hold milling jobs in western Canada, the 75 who hold jobs in Georgian Bay ports, the 85 who hold jobs in Halifax and Saint John, and the 402 who hold jobs in central Canada. Maybe the minister would like to tell her story face to face to these workers. I am quite sure that she would get an earful.

Why should we believe anything that this government tells us, for nothing ever works. Nothing it promises comes true. Remember all the big talk when it came to power nearly five and a half years ago. It was going to clean up the economy, and of course it promised not to touch any social programs. But here it is 1990, and the country, particularly its economy, is in a mess. Inflation is on the rise, unemployment is on the rise, interest rates are shooting through the roof. Never before have we seen such a spread in interest rates between Canada and the United States. The debt has doubled in five and one-half years. Our trade surplus is the worst in 10 years, and we are taxed, taxed and taxed. Come 1991, if the Tories get their way, we are going to get hammered again with the so-called goods and services tax.

The Tories have hacked VIA Rail. They have privatized unemployment insurance, and they have ended universality through that iniquitous thing called the clawback.

The government says it will save \$40 million or \$60 million by killing the at and east subsidy. I submit that this cannot be seen in isolation. I must remind members of other cuts in last spring's budget. I know it is painful for the Tories to hear, but I think it bears reminding. Two hundred million was cut out of crop insurance, \$48 million cut out of rail line rehabilitation, \$54 million cut out of advance payments for grain, \$15 million cut out of the Farm Credit Corporation, \$12 million cut out of the Canadian Dairy Commission. Cut, cut, cut and cut some more; \$399 million in all in farm support programs gone. Just like smoke in the wind. It could not come at a worst time.

### *Government Orders*

Farm income is expected to drop 39 per cent across the country this year. That old saw about Tory times are tough times comes particularly true in the year 1990. It seems that the Tories are bound and determined to keep on hacking, slashing and cutting, even if it does not make any sense.

Look, if you will, at their priorities. They want to kill at and east and save a few million dollars, after raising the alcohol and tobacco taxes \$475 million in the last budget. In the meantime, they will not go after over 100,000 corporations which do not pay income tax at all, corporations which earned in total \$25 billion. One really wonders where their priorities are.

However, the Tories will ride herd on farmers, port and mill workers. Under the at and east rates, the Atlantic region has proven to be a good market for western producers. Look at the figures. Last winter, the Canadian Wheat Board moved more than 175,000 tonnes of grain to ports in Halifax and Saint John, but it is more like 400,000 tonnes a year.

With the at and east subsidy gone, Atlantic Canada will have to look elsewhere for its purchases. It does not have a choice, for what we are talking about here is a matter of survival. Producers in Atlantic Canada cannot supply their own market. They account for only 20 per cent of Nova Scotia's requirements, 35 per cent to 40 per cent of New Brunswick's, and I believe it is about 80 per cent for Prince Edward Island.

The withdrawal of the at and east subsidy will place an enormous burden on livestock and poultry producers in Atlantic Canada and, of course, it will rob western farmers of one of their traditional markets.

Atlantic Canada cannot be expected to take this lying down. They are tough people there and they are not going to take it lying down.

Consider, if you will, what the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission is proposing. It has come up with three possible options to offset the effects of the loss of the at and east subsidy.

First, importing barley, wheat and oats from France and other European countries. These countries would be able to supply the east coast at cheaper prices than those from domestic sources. That is certainly not good news for western Canada. The second option proposed by the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission is asking the federal government to drop its countervail on American corn. The third option is the use of unit trains to