

Waste and Mismanagement

to build up the economy in this country, making it much stronger.

I notice that corporate deferred taxes have gone up \$1.6 billion in the third quarter of 1978 compared to the third quarter of 1977. I understand these deferred taxes now stand at some \$12.3 billion as of the third quarter of 1978. These are deferred taxes. I am sure that if the poor people in this country, such as those women working in the squid industry in Newfoundland, wanted to defer a few bucks in taxes it would not be long before the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Abbott) was demanding that they pay these few bucks to the national revenue department.

These are the things I think we should be noting when we are talking about government mismanagement of funds. We should look at this government's priorities to see whether it is governing for the ordinary, little person in this country. I think we should also be futuristic and think about the way this government is planning the economy. Just think of all the types of priorities this government has. If we look at these priorities in hard terms I think we must conclude that the government is wasting all kinds of money and is not planning the economy.

We should look at a number of different areas, for example grain handling. The Wheat Board has said that if we had put more money into boxcars we could have sold an extra \$350 million worth of grain this year alone. We could have done that if we had adequate rolling-stock. We have seen many reports that say that if the government had a proper program in respect of nutrition to inform people about the foods they are eating, we could save hundreds of millions of dollars each and every year in terms of hospital bills that are escalating so rapidly in this country.

There are many other things one could point out. I think of the money wasted in relation to our human potential, particularly when I look at that vast reservoir of unemployed in this country, the result of a lack of planning in our economy. I look at the fact that we as a nation import more manufactured goods per capita than any other industrial country in the world. Surely to God we can do more processing of our raw materials in this country, for example, by upgrading the nickel in Nickel Belt and the Sudbury basin. By doing this we could be providing jobs for Canadians. I think that is one of the most condemning features of this government's lack of ability to manage and plan our economy in a proper way.

We should look at the food picture, something about which I am very interested in terms of agriculture and the consumer. We are becoming less and less self-sufficient in the production of food. If we had proper government management of the economy we could be producing a lot more food in this country. Some 70 per cent of our strawberries, for example, are being imported along with some 30 per cent of our cabbages, 44 per cent of our onions and 24 per cent of our cherries.

Many of these things that are imported could be produced in this country. I look across the way and see my good friend, the Minister of State (Environment) (Mr. Marchand). I do not

[Mr. Nystrom.]

have the clipping with me, but that environmental czar over there said about a year ago that if we could use the energy that is wasted in this country we could produce an extra \$2 billion worth of fruits and vegetables. He said that we could do that if we had proper planning of resources for the Canadian people.

In fact, if we discount grains and oilseeds we find that in 1978 our net deficit in the production of food amounted to about \$1.6 billion. We are only about 90 per cent efficient in the production of beef. Just think of our very small population and the huge acreage we have in Alberta, Saskatchewan and other provinces for the production of beef. If we had proper management of the economy we could be more than self-sufficient in the production of beef in this country.

These are some of the things we should be looking at when we are considering a motion such as the one before the House today, and this brings me to the second part of the subject I wish to discuss. I do not think it is just the government across the way that does not know how to manage things. I got the impression from the Conservative party that it was a super manager and would get rid of government debts. I got the impression from members of that party that they would cut back on government spending. I used to believe them as I am basically a person who believes everything everybody tells me. I always believed that people were telling the truth. Perhaps I was naive in thinking that they would not mislead me. I did a little bit of research to see whether the Tories have a monopoly on prudent government spending, small deficits and proper management and planning. That is not what I found at all. I think this House should know some of the facts.

I just noticed in the paper on Saturday that Premier Loughheed had added another five or six members to his cabinet, and with 29 cabinet ministers in the province of Alberta he has the largest cabinet of any provincial government. In terms of a small Tory management team, again this is an indication—

An hon. Member: Tell us about Barrett.

Mr. Nystrom: Barrett had a much smaller cabinet than that.

An hon. Member: How many people are there in Alberta?

Mr. Nystrom: The population of Alberta is something under two million. The population of Quebec is over six million and the population of Ontario is well over seven million, yet Alberta still has by far the largest provincial cabinet in this country.

Let us look at numbers in respect of public servants. The province of Saskatchewan has 1.8 per cent of its people in the public service. In Nova Scotia, 2.3 per cent of the population is in the public service. In that Tory bastion of Alberta I am told that 2.4 per cent of the people are public servants, and in Tory New Brunswick the figure is 3.4 per cent. I understand that the national average is 3.3 per cent. This shows that the government that is a socialist government is the one that knows how to manage. Saskatchewan is by far the best managed province in this country.