

province? I am sure they must come in very great numbers because of the devalued dollar.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, a report entitled "The Last Straw" says that the Sherbrooke Tourist and Convention Bureau indicated that as many as 35,000 tourists and 12,000 convention visitors coming to that area each year arrive on "The Atlantic". That is the VIA Rail train which is being cancelled, which is a tragedy.

I would say to the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) that I am happy about the investment of tourist dollars and I am glad of the celebrations. There will be a large native Indian celebration in Ontario next September and I want it to succeed. All I am saying is that you cannot make things succeed if you make them counterproductive at the same time. If we encourage all these celebrations and then make it difficult for people to enjoy themselves, things will not work. Much as we want to entice them, people do not have to come here.

Even with the devalued dollar Americans do not come to Canada as much as they used to. Those who come generally live within 150 miles of the border. An RV vehicle gets five or six miles to a gallon of gas, at \$2.25 per gallon. Those vehicles do not get good mileage through the mountains. The visitor knows that of that \$2.25, two-thirds is taxes. That is not a good way to encourage tourists to come and see this country. It is the reason that the number of visitors from other lands is decreasing and also that Canadians keep going south. That is too bad, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gather that there are no further questions or comments. Before proceeding to debate will Hon. Members allow the Chair to refer to Standing Order 15(1), which provides that the Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and also to subparagraph (3) which provides that when a Member is speaking, no Member shall pass between that Member and the Chair. I should like to draw to the attention of the House that since the resumption of the debate this afternoon, eight Members, including one Minister, have passed between the Hon. Member who had the floor and the Chair. I have no choice but to apply the rules of the House and I seek the co-operation of all Hon. Members in respecting that particular rule of decorum.

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I agree with you. I think we should do our utmost to preserve the traditions we have respected so long in the House of Commons. I hope no one crosses while I am on my feet.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with this opportunity to speak to the motion concerning the tourist industry, moved by my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Jelinek), and in the twenty minutes I am allowed, I shall try to explain, in my own words, how we should interpret a deficit of \$2.1 billion for 1983.

There are a number of reasons, Mr. Speaker, but there is one very simple reason, for instance, for the loss of about \$600

Supply

million, and it appears in the report published by Tourism Canada. In the last report, according to the latest figures available which are for 1981, 10,000,968 Americans visited Canada and spent an average of \$169, while 10,000,000 Canadians, so not quite as many Canadians, spent a much higher average per person, namely, \$230. This works out to a difference of \$600 million for 1983. Of course there are other reasons, Mr. Speaker, and I shall try to correct the assumption that these reasons are the cause of the Canadian Government's failure to improve tourism in Canada.

First of all, we see that although, in 1981, international trade dropped by 1 per cent, tourism increased by 1 per cent. Here we already have a difference of 2 per cent, which shows the vitality of the tourist industry, because although all other industries connected with international trade showed a drop of 1 per cent, the tourist industry showed an increase of 1 per cent, and income from international travel increased by 16.2 per cent annually over the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, this proves tourism is alive and well, and how important it is to Canada. In Canada, the tourist industry employs 1.2 million people four times as many as the construction industry. The latter industry is often taken as an example of one of our vital industrial sectors, and so it is, because of the materials it uses and the economic impact on other industries such as furniture and carpet manufacturing, to name only a few. However, tourism employs four times as many employees and twice as many as agriculture ranking second right after the manufacturing sector. It provides jobs for workers at all levels of skill and in all parts of the country. According to Statistics Canada, between 1979 and 1981 tourism had outstripped forestry, manufacturing, construction and trade with the number of new jobs provided, which demonstrates the vitality of this industry.

The amount of foreign currency generated by the tourist industry exceeds that generated by oil exports, which will come as a surprise to many. People used to think that Canada's oil industry, that is, crude oil, was a major industry, but tourism comes first in generating foreign currency. Unfortunately, although it is not the case throughout the country, I must be critical of the present provincial Government, since a large part of the deficit Canada is showing is due especially to poor administration by the Government of the Province of Quebec. While tourism is showing increases, in terms of the number of jobs created and expansion of business in all provinces, ranging from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, the Province of Quebec is on the low end of the scale, although other industries in Quebec showed a drop of only 0.2 per cent and this was 2.1 per cent in other provinces. In the Province of Quebec, compared to all other industries, growth in the tourist industry, was only 5 per cent. In Ontario, for instance, this figure was 6.7 per cent; in British Columbia, 7.9 per cent; and in Alberta, 10.1 per cent. In Quebec, it was only 5 per cent.