

and I am quite sure many of our Members on this side disagree with it also.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to this latest in a series of borrowing authority Bills, I believe it is fair to point out once again that this is the seventh borrowing Bill that Parliament has seen in the last 37 months, amounting to a total borrowing authority request of \$77.3 billion, including the Bill before us today. In an effort to put that amount into perspective, on the basis of 1,123 days, which is three years and a month, that total breaks down to \$68,833,482 per day. That is almost one half a million dollars a day for every Liberal Member of Parliament on the other side of the House.

It was interesting to hear the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Cosgrove) refer to the Catholic Bishops' statement a few moments ago when he said there should be some emphasis placed, in terms of spending and priorities, for the care and support of 1.5 million unemployed and others in poverty or left out of our society. If it were the case that a significant proportion of these moneys were being spent for that purpose, those of us with some soul could at least understand the priorities of the Government for borrowing money to keep people alive and in good health. However, some of these moneys have been spent in heartless ways while other sums have been put to unproductive and counterproductive uses.

The main thrust of my speech will deal with one area of spending, both on the part of the federal Government and the provincial Government of British Columbia, for a project generally referred to as northeast coal. It is an example of how billions of dollars can be poured down the drain and not only wasted but spent in such a way as to destroy jobs that already existed as a result of public and private investment in the southeastern corner of British Columbia. The unreliable predictions of both the federal Government opposite and the Social Credit or social conservative Government of British Columbia have led to the waste of billions of dollars in competing not only with private sector money but with their own money that went into the infrastructure to develop southeastern coal resources a number of years ago, to improve the railway transport lines for that coal and build the transport and shipping facilities at Roberts Bank from whence the coal is shipped overseas.

As a result of the current wasted expenditures, despite all the warnings from both the Japanese and the industry in this country, those governments are destroying jobs, investments and the equity of shareholders who understandably thought they had a good investment in the coking coal of southeastern British Columbia.

There is a recent article in the April 21, 1983 edition of the *Vancouver Sun*, written by H. M. Halderson, a Vancouver mining consultant who in 1980 produced a report for the council of mayors of southeastern British Columbia on the effects of northeast coal development on their communities. That article concludes "Has the Government" . . . both federal and provincial . . . "shown good judgment in its investment in northeast coal? Subsidy to one segment of an industry at the expense of another and job creation in one part of the province

that contributes to unemployment in another is hardly wise use of tax dollars."

The article ends with the question: "Does spending a huge sum to create production in the northeast when southeast mines can produce at a fraction of the Government's cost represent the restraint in Government spending of which we hear so much?"

The answer to the question is obvious to anyone who reads the article or is aware of any of the facts of that entire northeast project. The answer is that it does not make sense. It is not an example of restraint. It is, rather, an example of a Government—both the Liberal Government here and the Social Credit Government there—intent on churning out money and throwing it away to their friends in the private sector while refusing extended benefits to over 1.5 million unemployed in the country. Not only do they waste the money, they directly cause the lay-offs of hundreds more employees who are working in the southeastern coal fields of British Columbia. It is an absolutely insane policy which can be likened to someone standing in the back of a train and shoveling those billions of dollars out by the bucketful. The money is not only being wasted; it is causing the destruction of existing jobs.

I, along with the other people in southeastern British Columbia, are amazed by these policies. When politicians get into trouble they build pyramids. They have been doing so for 5,000 years. At least the edifices built by the Pharaohs are still standing. The pyramids and bubbles built by the federal Government and the provincial Government in Victoria crumble to dust before they have even been erected. Their collapse brings down everyone else with them.

These senseless policies are beyond description and can only be counterproductive. But they have become typical of Governments which would rather build new empires where there is little population and few communities so that they can let out contracts to their friends at public expense, rather than use the money intelligently to service communities which already exist and provide facilities for the people who already live there. They ignore the existing needs of people and dole out billions of dollars of public money in contracts to their friends. Those Governments then get together in some act of conspiracy, because they take the attitude that you offer more money to those who have when you want to give them incentives. But the Liberal and Conservative idea of providing an incentive to those who do not have is to cut their wages so that they will have to work harder, or to cut off their UIC to give them more incentive to work for lower wages.

That is what they have done with northeast coal. It has not been sufficient to destroy the communities and jobs for the people in southeastern British Columbia. By tampering with the Labour Relations Board and its rulings, they have broken provisions in union agreements that allowed workers to refuse to work alongside non-union labour. The result has been that we now see, as shown on the CTV network approximately a week ago on a program on northeast coal development, hobo jungles in which hundreds of people were standing in the cold