

Government Orders

The government cut VIA Rail. If you are going to take visitors across Canada and show them the country and indeed if you are going to show Canadians our country the best thing to do is not cut VIA Rail, break the line, but have a national rail service in this country so people might see something. They might get from one place to another in a way that would appeal to them.

There is another way that this government is really helping to lay the groundwork for the tourist industry of the coming decade. Tourism Canada is one of the greatest little sections of government that we have. It is not very well known to the Canadian public because they do not get the attention they deserve.

Tourism Canada is a group of people working to promote tourism for Canada. Because of their efforts five years ago they had 400 people on staff. With the onslaught coming for tourism and because of the attitude of this government, two years ago Tourism Canada, in preparation for the next decade in this country, was cut down to 150 personnel. In 1990 the government cut them back to 110. They just recently let 17 people go.

In 1991, just to continue this very constructive program to destroy tourism in this country, a further reduction by 8 per cent will take place. In 1992 the government is going to further reduce them by 5 per cent. That is what we are doing to promote one of the greatest developing industries for this country.

While the finances of this country are being mismanaged today by this government, we are hearing all these statements about the fantastic financial management skills of the government and the fantastic results it is achieving. Yet it is hanging up there at \$30.5 billion deficit.

I want to reinforce what I said a while ago about the extent of the growth of tourism in the world and in Canada. Whenever we travel abroad or even in Canada, even in business, it is tourism because we do a certain amount of visiting while we are there. We have become part of the 1,500 million people who travel away from their place of residence every year. That number equals almost one-third of the world's population.

We have also contributed to the world-wide spending on tourism which, in 1988, was over \$2,000 billion U.S. dollars or \$2 trillion, as North Americans would say, if

we include spending on transport. If that sounds like a lot of money, it is. It comes to 12 per cent of the world Gross National Product and more than the GNP of any country but the United States. Tourism has become the world's largest industry. As a source of foreign earnings it accounts for 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the world trade in services. That is a fantastic statistic.

That is what we should be planning for today, yet this government in its foresight is cutting Tourism Canada. As of the end of this year it will be down to less than 25 per cent of the personnel of what it was five years ago. Is that management? Is that saving?

People who come to Canada want to do many things. We have tremendous outdoors in this country for people to enjoy. One of the services to many small communities and tourist areas across this country comes from small craft harbours, a small section of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

This government has been neglecting small craft harbours ever since it took office. Facilities that were good are deteriorating because they are not being maintained. Some are still non-existent because there is no money to build anything, which means that development is not taking place to pave the way for Tourism 2000. Adding costs of maintenance to facilities just simply wastes money because it costs more in the long run.

As the hon. member for Algoma said when he spoke in this House a few days ago on behalf of his region of Canada, northern Ontario, very few Canadians realize that in Ontario alone, the Ontario and federal governments collect some \$300 million annually from fishing tackle, sale of boats, sale of oars, sale of motors, sale of gasoline and other marine supplies that relate to small craft harbours, just to that industry alone.

What do they put back into it? They put \$3 million, 1 per cent, back in as an investment for this country. The remainder of that revenue probably helped to buy that \$1.8 million article over at the museum. It probably helped to fix the Prime Minister's make-up room behind the National Press Gallery. All these things are very important. It is more important for the Prime Minister to have a make-up room around Parliament Hill and across