

agree with him and say that we must tighten our belts in the midst of affluence, when we do not know what to do with such affluence, when we can afford to pay unemployment insurance benefits to close to two thirds of the people, at the expense of those still working, without touching however those who accumulate millions taken from the workers who pay for those who are unemployed.

Despite all that, in 1970, we succeeded in capitalizing a surplus of about \$34 billion. Certainly, there are materials to solve the problem of pollution. They are not lacking. Nobody here is afraid of not having enough materials to clean up pollution.

The government has no engineers, it does not have the technology required to solve this problem, but all members fear that the financial means may not be sufficient.

If it is physically possible to build a country, to accumulate surpluses, it is certainly easy and physically feasible to finance the economy when it is prosperous and when there is affluence everywhere. Workers are laid off because there are too many products. There are even huge stocks.

We must therefore assume our responsibilities. The establishment of a new department with very little funds will not solve the problem. Taxes will have to be increased to create new worries for taxpayers. They will be told: Pay more; empty your pocket; you have not done enough yet. As for us we will continue to ask for more. Happen what may, the problem of pollution will continue to exist. Our environment will become so much polluted that we will be crushed by pollution.

● (9:10 p.m.)

Recently, Mr. G. Arnold Hart stated and I quote:

All of us create some pollution and we must all pay the cost, either by accepting an increase in prices or in taxes, or by forgoing certain goods which seem very desirable, or by putting up with the unemployment caused by the closing of industries incapable of complying with new standards.

What will the new department demand in order to solve the problem of pollution? We might be compelled to close 25 or 30 per cent of existing industries for that purpose.

The means suggested are poverty, hunger and hardship. Everything is extremely polluted. This is the main problem we have to cope with.

Long enough has it been smelly in our country and our departments; let us spray some perfume in there and allow Canadian citizens to freely enjoy pure air, abundance, and additional well-being in this affluent country where there is everything necessary to organize sound economy and plentiful production, and purify our water resources.

First of all, we must cleanse our already polluted minds, bent on remaining in their present condition. Some people put their noses on manure and think it sells good. I, for one, consider that it does not smell good. I am unable to get used to it.

Government Organization Act, 1970

Since other hon. members have dealt with the technical aspects of pollution, I shall not mention them. However, I should like to ask the government to put aside its policy for the creation of these many departments which will prove unable to settle anything whatsoever.

The government has only thing to do, namely put the financial system at the disposal of the provinces and municipalities. They should be allowed to discharge their responsibilities. The government must look after financial matters, and forget about the rest. The departments have nothing to do in that connection, because the municipalities and the provinces are able to fully and totally discharge their responsibilities. They know what they want and where they are heading, but they have no money. It belongs to the federal government to provide the provinces and municipalities with the necessary tools to enable them to do the job. As Churchill said during the last war: "Give us the tools and we will do the job." Tools must be given to the provinces and municipalities, and they will do the job. The government should not bother about the rest.

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member wishes to put a question to the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) before he sits down, if the hon. member for Compton is ready to answer a question.

Mr. Latulippe: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Bonaventure.

Mr. Béchard: The hon. member said a few moments ago that everybody knew the extent of pollution and that everybody knew this and that and those, and that the government was responsible for action in this field. He finished his speech by saying: Give us the tools and we will do the job.

Does the hon. member know that for some time the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been helping municipalities to fight pollution by granting loans for building sewage treatment plants and that the corporation is lending substantial amounts of money and does he know that municipalities recognize this fact?

Mr. Latulippe: I have known this for a long time, but if adequate action had been taken, pollution would have been checked, at least partly. But the situation is worse than ever. It is not by lending money to municipalities at interest rates of 8, 10 or 12 per cent that the problem will be solved. Higher interest rates mean more trouble for municipalities. The deeper they get into debt, the more difficulty they will have to get out of it. They get bogged deeper and deeper.

[English]

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with considerable attention and a great deal of interest—