

Government Orders

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be able to speak to the House and bring the concerns of the citizens of Thunder Bay—Nipigon with respect to the bill before us, a bill that was called by the minister today a cap on the CAP, the transfer payment to the provinces, that transfer payment being extended to 1995 and into 1996.

As the last speaker of the day, I would like to compliment the debate on this side of the House today and to reflect, not only to the members of this House, since this is our first day back, but to the people of Canada the feelings we are experiencing about the effects this bill will have.

We had speakers from our side from Newfoundland, Broadview—Greenwood, London East, Leeds—Grenville, Parkdale—High Park, Winnipeg North Centre, Edmonton Southeast and just recently the member for Ottawa—Vanier. They truly reflected the condition of the economy of Canada today and the debate also reflects the distress that some people find themselves in because of this capping procedure.

• (1750)

I would also like to comment just for a moment on the speaker who went before me from my sister riding of Thunder Bay—Atikokan, and not to leave any impression as to what I heard him say about what was happening in the area I come from, Thunder Bay—Nipigon and particularly northwestern Ontario. There is no question that like everyone else in Canada we in northwestern Ontario and Thunder Bay are suffering. Perhaps it is not as much as some of our brothers and sisters in some of the eastern provinces, and perhaps not as greatly as they are in Alberta and British Columbia. In any event, there is no one in Canada today escaping this harsh reality that we find ourselves in because of the economic process.

Let me correct some of the statements that were made in that speech. We do not allow raw sewage to be discharged into Lake Superior. What we do have in Thunder Bay is a primary sewer treatment plant which has been operating for some 20 or 25 years and the necessity is now upon the municipality of Thunder Bay to put in a secondary treatment facility so that the discharge will be free and clear of any effluents whatsoever. That is a \$60 million to \$70 million cost which will have to be paid for by the municipal taxpayers and hopefully by some co-operation between the provincial government and the federal government.

The infrastructure program that we heard our leader talk about today would go a long way toward helping the community of Thunder Bay and every other community in this country to take care of those vital services that are so sorely needed I am sure in every community in our country.

We do have one paper mill that has shut down. We do have lay-offs in some of the other paper mills. I am satisfied with the paper mills that we do have in Thunder Bay, one of which is the fine paper mill, Great Lakes Forest Products. It has just completed a \$50 million expansion and is producing recycled fibre. It is one of the mills in Canada that is state of the art. I am satisfied that in Domtar Nipigon the union and the company are talking about how it can become more competitive so that it can produce paper and its products and its cartons so that it will be more competitive.

I am satisfied also that the mills in Fort Frances and Dryden that produce fine papers and Provincial Paper which produces fine paper and Thunder Bay Mill which produces newsprint are working toward becoming economically a combination between management and unions working together in order to enhance the community.

I am not at all pessimistic about the future of Thunder Bay. I am optimistic that we have this type of co-operation between the parties involved so that we know what the market is out there. I say with the industriousness and the co-operation of all of the people in Thunder Bay that we will be able to meet the challenges ahead of us.

I am glad the Minister of Agriculture is in the House today. I want to compliment him on behalf of the people of Thunder Bay and to congratulate him for just over the weekend completing a transaction with Mr. Yeltsin to supply 25 million tonnes of wheat to the Russian people over the next five years and for granting the \$100 million loan that was necessary for the Russian people to buy this grain.

While the minister is still in the House, I want to remind him once more that the traditional ports where the grain is shipped to the Russian market are usually the port of Thunder Bay and the Don River ports. I would hope he would remember that as he completes all of the further transactions that are going to have to be involved with the shipment of that 25 million tonnes of grain through the port of Thunder Bay. I would be available to advise him if he would accept my help.