

*Government Orders*

It cut Canadian Jobs Strategy by \$100 million. It sells gold to the tune of about a million ounces per year. What is it doing with the money? The deficit does not go down. The national debt is not going down. Where is the money going?

It is fine for the government to say it is doing what it can, is getting things under control and expects the provinces to do the same thing. However, it is not prepared to help them. It holds back spending and puts up a nice front. Come next election time, it is going to be able to say: "We did our share. We got things under control."

Now the provinces cannot do it. Why not? Because they have cuts in the transfer payments from the federal government. The government is passing on its responsibilities to the provinces unfairly saying: "Those are the breaks. We are not giving you any extra funds. We are not going to give you any more money to do what you have to do. You are just going to have to do it."

I would like to see any one of those married members say that to their spouse: "I am going to keep the money, but you have to take care of the household. You have to buy the food. You have to pay the mortgage. You have to dress the kids." Give me a break.

As one of the have provinces, Ontario has made a commitment. In 1988-89, the federal government collected more than \$5,000 per capita in Ontario. It spent \$3,360 per capita in Ontario. The result was the net outflow from Ontario of some \$16 billion in federal revenue.

The Ontario government continues to commit and keep its commitment to the values of sharing in Canada. In particular, Ontario has always strongly supported the \$8.2 billion equalization program.

Let us face it. Everybody is in trouble. All the provinces are in trouble, and the federal government has to recognize that. It has to come up with programs that will put people back to work. People do not want social assistance. People do not want welfare. They do not want to live on a street corner in a cardboard box. They want to work. They want to contribute. They want to be part of the economy. They want to be part of the growth of this country.

• (1630)

What we need are job creation programs and a show of confidence from this government. We need some assistance to get things moving in this country. It means that this government has to participate and has to start loosening up a little bit.

It has to start realizing that even the have provinces are hurting. It has to recognize that the have provinces need assistance before it is too late, before they become have not provinces. All the provinces want to participate and I think this federal government has an obligation to recognize that and to offer assistance.

I would just like to conclude by asking this federal government to rethink what it is doing in this bill. We have to look at the growth of CAP. One member mentioned a little earlier that the Canada Assistance Plan has grown by 5 per cent a year. Obviously that is not enough. Until this government gets its act together and starts putting people back to work, we are going to need more assistance. But that is not what Canadians want. They do not want more assistance. They want to work in Canada, for Canada, for the benefit of Canada so that we can remain Canadians.

I look to the federal government to come to its senses and get this bill under control and get its act under control.

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, but I do want to participate in this debate because there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding, particularly where I come from in Ontario, about deficits, government spending, tight fiscal policies, unemployment and so on.

Of course the recession drives this thinking. People in Ontario have been hit very hard in the past two years. Not only are we going through a recession, but we are suffering in many sectors of the economy in many parts of the province from the ravages of the free trade agreement. We are still suffering the ravages of the high Canadian dollar *vis-à-vis* the U.S. dollar. We are still suffering the ravages of the high interest rate policies of this government opposite.

Those are policies that have built up over the 1980s and collided head-on with the economic downturn which we call a recession, but in many communities in Ontario it is in fact a depression.