

Time Allocation

People were very concerned about the water situation. He went on to say:

The interim period could be used constructively to revise and strengthen the Phase II proposal. For example—

Listen to this. This was the industrial strategy introduced by the then Minister of DREE:

—consideration for the industrial park could be strengthened if it were supported with a list of prospective tenants. Moreover, I understand there exists some confusion regarding ownership of the land on which the park is to be developed.

Does it mean that if one wants to get an industry started in the local community, one has to indicate one's desire to have that industry in the region but first an industrial park must be built if the region agrees? There could be a delay of two or three years, but it would finally get there. That was the message that was sent out.

This project was further hampered by another incident which occurred on June 21, 1980. Prior to that, on May 21, 1980, the new Minister of DREE, the present Hon. Member for Matapédia-Matane (Mr. De Bané), wrote to the provincial Treasurer of Ontario and stated:

● (1640)

In the case of Pembroke, I am sympathetic to the requirement for the industrial park itself—

He went on to elaborate. Then, one month later, after receiving the letter from the federal Minister of DREE, the provincial Treasurer stood before a Conservative Party meeting in the riding and said, "We sense the federal Government has been withdrawing support for infrastructure programs, and if so, Pembroke's new industrial park could be in jeopardy". One can imagine how that hit the local press. Shortly thereafter, the federal Minister of DREE, along with two colleagues from eastern Ontario, the present Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) and the present Minister of State for Mines (Mrs. Erola), went to Toronto. The Province seemed to be absolutely astounded that there was so much support. I suppose that when the provincial Treasurer made that statement in front of that Tory meeting, he thought he would be a hero and could dump the blame on the federal Liberal Government for not doing anything. However, when he was suddenly confronted with the fact that we were taking a strong stand, that changed the whole picture. The end result was—

Mr. Lewis: Are you riding a white horse?

Mr. Hopkins:—that the Minister of DREE discussed the matter further with the Province of Ontario. Then the DREE Department submitted a plan to the Ontario Government in the summer of 1980. We never heard from the Ontario Government until late in November when the provincial Treasurer of Ontario had to bow out of the federal-provincial meeting and could not be there to discuss the situation.

Nothing else was heard from the Province until June 12 of 1981, when the provincial Treasurer wrote to the Minister of DREE requesting a meeting. Throughout this time the controversy was continuing all across the region. It was being said that the feds were dragging their feet while the Province was willing to go ahead. The provincial Treasurer even wrote a

letter to the City of Pembroke saying, "We are prepared to go ahead and commit the \$5.6 billion if the federal Government is willing to do likewise". Of course, this was after he had received the federal Government's proposal, about which he said nothing.

I admire Ministers who carry out these kinds of federal-provincial relations and still stick to their guns. Of course, these are the sort of squirming federal-provincial relations which should be laid out in the open so that we can make other arrangements in the future with a little more dignity and with a little more respect for each other.

The end result was the Liberal Minister of DREE approved the project. He met with the provincial Treasurer here in Ottawa and came to an agreement the first time they met thereafter. It could have happened months before, but it did not because the Province did not approach the federal Government for months after the proposal was made. This is not the way to handle federal-provincial relations, and we must adopt a more constructive approach and put a time frame on these matters thereafter.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that I must take part in a debate on a borrowing authority Bill for which closure has been sought when it concerns a request for more than \$19 billion. The House has been told that there must be closure in order for the Government to carry on with its business. I want to discuss some of that business for a few moments, if I may.

It is disturbing to see the kinds of things happening in my riding, and to hear in Ottawa about the main corridor of VIA Rail and the passenger services which must be accommodated here. There have been problems involving crews on passenger trains in the West which have had to call in the RCMP to take drunk people off the trains. This is affecting their duties on the trains. There have also been cases of rape on trains. It is difficult for conductors to carry out their duties. As well, passengers have been overbooked. This has been caused by the action of the Government. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) has brought in legislation without even presenting it to the House, making sweeping changes to VIA Rail, affecting transportation services to which people are entitled.

The Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) referred to job creation programs. I would like to emphasize the problem in my riding where the federal and provincial Governments have allocated almost \$1 billion to develop the Northeast Coal Program. At this time, 2,000 workers in my riding are laid off for six weeks, with the possibility of being laid off for another four weeks because of stockpiling of coal going to the Japanese, the very same market for which the Government is providing extra funding. I want to say in all sincerity that if the Government is to enter into those kinds of programs, and if that is in the best interests of the country, there should be orderly marketing to protect the towns and villages involved. When I see billions of dollars being spent and the high level of deficit, and those kinds of problems being created, I want to