

ance benefits at the rate of payment per hour for the number of hours per day which is required. I further submit that with only about 365,000 farmers left in Canada, the farming industry could well employ thousands of people if it could afford to do so. I personally do not know a single farmer who would not wish to employ someone if he only knew he could afford to continually do so. I ask hon. members this: in what industry would it be better to create employment than in the industry which is the backbone of our country, agriculture?

Some of the legislation put forward by the government in the past has been designed to encourage people to leave the farms. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, they are leaving—many not needing any encouragement. Look at the average age of farmers—something like 58 years of age. This is evidence enough that young people are not remaining on the farms. People are not staying because they can make a far better living in other industries. They are entitled to a decent wage for their work as well as a reasonable return on their investment. This is not being realized on the farms, as it is in most other industries.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that to encourage people to leave farming is a serious mistake and shows a lack of long-range planning. I also believe that in the not too distant future government will be encouraging people to return to farming. I know that Canada is at or near zero population growth. However, the growth in the world population is a horse of a different colour. Examination of the figures shows that in the year 1650 the total world population was only 500 million. By the year 1850 it had increased to one billion. At the end of 1971, the population of the world stood at 3.74 billion, of which number 73 million had been added in 1970 and 1971 alone. The estimated rate of increase is one billion every 15 years. Developing countries double their population every 20 to 30 years. Advanced countries double their population every 70 to 175 years. In 1971, only 23 countries throughout the world had family planning and only another 15 countries supported birth control. By the year 2000, which is only a short period of 27 years away, the world population is estimated to be over six billion people. Mr. Speaker, I repeat: in 27 years our population will number more than six billion.

These people will have to be fed and Canada, without doubt, is one of the countries which will be expected to help provide this food. I feel it would be one of our world responsibilities as a food-producing nation. It is quite possible that if we do not consider this to be a responsibility, and refuse to help, other countries might consider obtaining our help by means of force.

What is the answer to the problem? It certainly is not to encourage people to leave the farms where the all-important food is produced. We should be encouraging farmers to stay on the farms to increase production, rather than prompting them to leave. If we are to do this, we must recognize that the farming industry needs capital—I mean cash in the pocket, not capital by way of more loans. To achieve this objective, long-range planning should begin right now. This will require the co-operation of the farmers.

### *The Budget—Mr. Towers*

In last Monday night's budget there are a few points that will benefit the farmers, but nowhere near enough of them. In fact, there are some proposals that will be highly detrimental to the farmers, and others that don't go far enough. The decrease in personal income tax and the increase in old age security pensions will help. The removal of the capital gains tax when transferring the farm within the family, as we had suggested, is good. However, the fact that this cannot be done until after death is unacceptable. This provision means that children could be in advanced age themselves before a transfer could take place, thereby affecting their future planning and security.

The removal of tariffs on farm products in the absence of reciprocal agreements is an outrage because at certain times this will be very costly to the farmers. Failure to remove taxes from building materials is a serious drawback to all segments of our society, especially to the farmers since they are always requiring building materials when expanding their operations or trying to keep their farms in good repair. Mr. Speaker, there are many more objections to this budget as far as I am concerned, but our time limit does not permit me to go into them right now.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honour for me to speak in this debate on behalf of the people I represent. There may be others of their calibre in Canada, but there are none better.

This is the message I bring to you today, Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the budget. The majority of my constituents are not prepared, nor are they willing to become pawns of any government. As the representative of Red Deer constituency, I want Canada to be united from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the United States border to the Arctic Ocean. But there are those who are dividing us. Divisive statements have been made during this session which should never have been uttered. Divide and rule seems to be the motto of this government.

• (1650)

The Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) during a speech delivered in this House talked about regionalism. We do not want to be regionalized. We cannot afford to be regionalized. Alberta is solidly opposed to this type of policy. One of the major problems within my constituency is transportation, because we are so far from the markets. In this great dominion we have two land-locked provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Did the Minister of Transport tell us anything definite about his transportation policies or did he suggest ideas which could be construed to be promising or positive? No, Mr. Speaker; he did not give one word of encouragement about an improved system of transportation, nor did the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) in the new budget.

If this government does not stop talking about regionalism, it will balkanize our land to such an extent that Canada will never become the great nation we desire. Transportation is vital to our economic well-being because the majority of Canadians reside in an area