

Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) that one area which should require early attention is that of requiring one department of government to supply a service for another. What I have in mind is that the Department of Justice should supply the legal services for all the departments of government and that this service should not take the form of adding another administrative officer or another section to a department. I think the minister should consider and address the question of whether Department of Justice personnel should be dispersed at all or as generously as they are at the moment.

I feel this is even more important in the field of public relations; only one department should supply the services for all others. In my opinion, there is costly duplication going on, and it should be stopped.

In this regard I dislike very much seeing our tax dollars, more than \$60 million of them, being spent on public advertising campaigns conducted by the government. There may be occasions when this is necessary, but I suggest this is one area which bears much more careful scrutiny.

I believe that the spending of millions of dollars on interior landscaping, together with the thousands of dollars which are spent on objects of art which are located on, in or around our public buildings and appear, to my uncultured eye, to resemble more closely escapees from a junk yard, should be stopped until the budget is balanced and then, and only then, should we address the question of how to decorate our public offices. Personally, I think we should sponsor a series of paintings depicting Canadians at work; women in New Brunswick picking potatoes, fishermen off the coast of Newfoundland, coal miners deep down in the mine shafts of Cape Breton, prairie farmers, trappers in the north, lumber men in Quebec and factory workers in Ontario. There should be pictures and paintings of the taxpayers of Canada who work so very hard to make ends meet and are required to pay federal taxes. That is the type of art work I would like to see adorning the hallowed chambers of our government offices. I think the example set by pictures and paintings by these hard-working Canadians is one worth following.

It has come to my attention that some very small changes in operations have resulted in some very considerable savings. For example, a very slight change in the quality of paper has the potential of saving over \$100,000 in printing costs in the House of Commons. A change in the method of purchasing pallets of paper has saved \$10,000, and I believe between \$20,000 and \$30,000 is being saved in the purchase of cleaning materials. I have already complimented the officials involved and encouraged them to continue to move in this direction. I am sure all hon. members who, like myself, are quick to criticize will also be quick to praise the officials responsible for these commendable activities.

I have other suggestions which I will be making in committee, but I want to deal tonight with two major ways in which we can stop a tremendous output of money from the federal treasury.

One of our major expenditures is in subsidizing imported oil. This will be well over \$4 billion this year. That is no small

Borrowing Authority

factor in the federal deficit and the rate of inflation. In coming years, as new and unconventional sources of oil are brought onstream, Canada can become self-sufficient. That is the bottom line answer to this drain. It will not be easy, but it is possible. Oil is there in the oil sands or under the water. The problem is to get it out.

The solutions to the economic situation lay largely in solving the energy problem, and this in turn requires three basic elements. Ottawa and Edmonton must make peace and create a climate in which the private oil industry can work effectively.

The oil price must be raised to levels sufficient to generate revenue for energy exploration and development, but consistent with the development of our nation and a shelter for Canadians in the lower and middle-income group. Ordinary Canadians everywhere must do all they can to cut down on fuel waste.

An exploration boom in Canada would result in a boom for Canadian industries which supply goods to the oil industry and its employees. The spin-off benefits would spread across the entire nation. This problem can only be solved if our people take the broad view, not thinking just of their city or region but of the entire country. If all Canadians work together, we can end our dependence on insecure supplies of oil from foreign countries at constantly increasing prices. I believe this is the first major step to restoring stability to the Canadian economy.

Another way in which we must move to reduce the large and growing amount of transfer payments to the have-not provinces is to help these have-not provinces build their infrastructures so they can become self-sufficient in the long run, and reduce their dependence on the central government in the medium term. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is the government's instrument for moving in this direction, and it has done much to commend it.

The key to DREE's success is a broad scope and narrow focus. Its success depends on the extent to which every department of government is given a development mission, which is not diminished by being spread across the country but, instead, is focused on regions of disparity.

In the war against regional disparity DREE must be in the forefront of the battle. That means it has to be adequately funded to carry out its responsibilities. This has not been happening. In 1969 DREE's budget was 2 per cent of the federal budget, while in 1980 it was about 1 per cent. In 1970-71, 53 per cent of DREE's budget was allocated to the Atlantic provinces. In 1977-78 this dropped to 38 per cent.

The erosion of the DREE budget must stop; it should be restored to its original profile and purpose. Giving every department of government a development dimension, restoring the vitality of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and making it the leader in assisting areas which suffer from regional disparity require the personal attention, commitment and active participation of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau). He must vest in his minister responsible for regional economic expansion the power to give leadership in