

provide a tremendous boom to the manufacturing sector and alleviate some of the problems of unemployment.

● (1240)

The \$3.5 billion plan would generate \$36 billion worth of economic activity, an estimated 93,000 man-years of work, and the ongoing production and operation manpower requirements from 1988 to 2011 would be an additional 330,000 man-years of work. Of these, 205,000 would be regionally based, direct on-site employment, and economists' estimates of the indirect and induced employment required to manufacture the goods consumed by the project are included in these figures.

Another spin-off benefit would be that 1,700 new wells would be required. These wells would require servicing and infrastructure to maintain their operation.

I do not know why this Government refuses to act and create the positive climate necessary to allow these projects to go ahead. It has certainly failed to exercise economic leadership and to turn a natural advantage in this country into an economic advantage.

I turn now to the petrochemical industry. Two years ago it was recognized that by 1990 Canada would be a world leader in the petrochemical industry. What do we have today? In western Canada we have between \$6 billion and \$8 billion worth of petrochemical projects on hold. In central Canada the petrochemical industry is floundering. It has had to have a Government bail-out. The reason is primarily because of the heavy upfront taxes. This is a product of the National Energy Program. This has forced up the feedstock prices, which in the case of western Canada is natural gas and in central Canada is oil. The heavy upfront taxes as a result of the National Energy Program has put Canada's petrochemical industry into an uncompetitive position. We have the potential of 50,000 jobs and \$3 billion in trade, and it is all out the window. In the meantime, this Government flounders around, trying to create make-work projects to meet the needs of the unemployed. These are two examples where meaningful, long-term jobs could be created which would bring new wealth and new opportunity to this country.

In my opening comments I said that there were promises unfulfilled and things that were done that were not mentioned. I am sorry my time has run out.

In conclusion, I want to say that the Government's action in dismantling the Crow rate and the reduction by 20 per cent of the VIA passenger service are clear examples of the contempt which this Government has for Parliament and the Canadian people. It has generated further a mood of mistrust, disharmony and discord.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are Hon. Members rising to ask questions? If not, the Chair will recognize the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council.

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this Tory motion implies

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Government inactivity, Government inaction and Government delay. In this motion, methinks the Opposition doth protest too much. Let us take a look at the actions. Let us take a look at Opposition intransigence. Let us take a look at the Government's sensitivity to needs.

First let us look at this session of Parliament. This session has been one of the longest in Canadian history. In fact, it has been the longest. It has also been the most productive. Over 160 Bills have been introduced into Parliament and, of those, 129 have been passed. These Bills range from patriation of the Constitution and freedom of information to a new National Training Act and National Energy Program legislation. The Opposition may disagree with some or even most of this legislation. The Opposition may have opposed many of these 129 Bills that have passed. But surely it cannot accuse this Government during this session of being inactive, not when we have put through 129 Bills.

It is a little hard to take when this accusation comes from the Party that gave us 15 days of bell ringing, countless lost days because of questions of privilege, all of which were spurious, during the Constitution debate and over 70 speakers on each of the Income Tax Act and borrowing authority Bill at second reading alone.

Let us get back to reality and talk about Government action on some of the commitments in the Throne Speech. In the Throne Speech it was stated that this Government would assist "those unable to bear the burden of renegotiating their home mortgages in the present abnormal situation". That was the commitment. Let us look at the action.

In the November, 1981 budget, this Government announced a relief program whereby the Government would pay up to \$3,000 per year to home owners paying more than 30 per cent of their income on a mortgage. I admit this was not the same as the much touted mortgage deductibility scheme of the Tories. It benefited those in need, not those with big incomes and big houses. It moderately increased Government spending instead of increasing the deficit by billions of dollars, as the Tory promise would have done.

We went even further on our commitment. We realized that the current recession and high interest rates led to less construction and fewer units to live in. Therefore the November budget announced an incentive program, the Canadian rental supply plan, which provides interest-free loans for up to 30,000 units. We also allocated \$60 million to the Canadian home renovation plan to encourage Canadians to renovate and use existing housing. This \$60 million will likely result in almost \$200 million additional renovation work when the private sector contribution is added in.

Lastly, in the June, 1982 budget we introduced a \$3,000 cash grant for new purchasers or new home owners. The idea was to get home construction moving to provide for Canadians' shelter needs. The other idea was to provide jobs, between 75,000 and 100,000 of them in the construction industry from