

Speech from the Throne

ed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, as is the case in the Northwest Territories. And the minister says that we want less red tape! We like that. We endorse it 100 per cent. But let me ask why the government does not cut out the red tape. Why does the government not adopt policies and projects that will result in an administration in this country that is designed to reduce, not expand?

• (2130)

I was looking over the figures of civil service hirings during the last quarter and had always thought that there was a growth of roughly a net 1,000 a month. However, I find that in April, 1971, the growth was something in the order of 3,000 net, and slightly under 4,000 net growth in May of 1971. That is explainable by the six newly created ministries in the government during the regime of this Prime Minister. And the Minister of the Environment has the hypocrisy to say that what we need is more projects and less red tape!

The sixth item in this great paper that he delivered was this, "Wanted: Less government and more tax cuts". I did not hear the minister during the tax reform legislation make a plea for the prospector. Prospecting is a very important pursuit in his part of the country, yet I did not hear him make a plea for the prospector's wants, that he not be subject to the capital gains tax, the imposition of which has literally killed prospecting in his country and in mine. Neither did I hear him rise in his place and utter one criticism of the increase in taxes that was imposed on his constituents and others in this country. He has the gall to go to the west of Canada and to tell those who attended the meeting of western Liberals that he wanted more tax cuts, and he supports a government, in his hypocritical way, that imposes further taxes!

Less government, he says. Yet we have more boards, more commissions, more regulations, more provisions in our statute law, giving the government more and more power. There is more interference with the private lives, liberties and freedoms of the individual. The minister has the hypocrisy to go to Vancouver and say, "We want less of this" and then does nothing about it. Instead of delivering this paper in Vancouver, the minister should have been trying to convince his cabinet colleagues of the truth that is contained in it. But even better, it would have been an indication of his bona fides and sincerity had he risen at any time during his time in this House to espouse the principles that he sets forth in this paper.

Then again in this paper he says that the over-all tax bite is increasing. Then he compounds his hypocrisy with untruths, because he goes on to say that this trend toward even greater government influence in our economic affairs is bothering western Liberals, that it is bothering many independent-minded Canadians from coast to coast. Many people, he says, unthinkingly blame Ottawa for this trend. Few of them realize that the provinces, and to a lesser extent the municipalities, are the villains. So not only is he attempting to cover up the inadequacies of his party; he is also attempting to throw the blame, wrongfully and falsely, on the provinces and municipalities. He is trying to blame them for the excesses of his own government.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

Then he asks what western Liberals want Ottawa to do about this. He says that they want the government to curb its own spending. But, more than that, they want the government to stop collecting revenue for the provinces and municipalities. They want the other two levels of government to collect their own taxes. It will be interesting to see what is brought forward tomorrow when the equalization legislation comes up for debate.

The minister responsible for the legislation, and his parliamentary secretary have been telling us about the 90,000 new jobs that have been created by the new incentives program. I do not know what is going on in other constituencies in the country but I can tell hon. members what is going on in mine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are going down the drain. In one instance, \$17,000 odd was spent on a group of Indian people to cut wood which they would have had to cut anyway to employ themselves during the winter months. Some \$17,600 was approved for another Indian band to repair housing on land set aside for the use of Indian people, none of the money being applied. In fact, the situation is becoming so alarming that the Indian people who were allotted this money have taken to cannibalizing empty houses to keep their fires going. Thousands of dollars are being wasted in this fashion. I say that the claim of 90,000 new jobs is an outright lie, and the quicker the Canadian people realize that taxpayers' money is being spent in this fashion, the better.

The Minister of Transport played down this debate. He said, in essence, that it was a useless exercise. I think this debate is a good exercise, if for no other reason than to expose the inadequacies of the government. He said that the Leader of the Opposition did not put forward alternatives. We have been putting forward alternatives for almost the last four years, alternatives that in some cases, admittedly belatedly, have been accepted by the government.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that last April we started speaking about the recommendations of the Economic Council of Canada. We started speaking about the likelihood of a very critical unemployment situation developing in the fall. But the government did not listen to us. Our alternatives were just sloughed off. We advocated a revocation of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials, and have been doing so for a good number of years. We advocated real, meaningful tax cuts as far back as last April. We advocated other measures too. But the government adopted the position that everything was rosy, that inflation was going away, that unemployment was going away, that the economy was expanding. All these hypocritical statements came from a government as sanctimonious as the minister who has just spoken.

Everything the government said has turned out to be wrong. This is why our young people today are asking questions; it is why they are disillusioned. The government is not saying it like it is. It is not telling the people of Canada the truth. Try and get the truth in this House, Mr. Speaker. Ask questions of ministers, or of the Prime Minister, as I attempted to do yesterday. He knew exactly what I was talking about when I asked him about the special security force. Again I am misnaming it, but the Prime Minister knew what I meant. Yet he chose to hide behind the hair-splitting subterfuge that it was not specifically designated. There are some ministers who will