

products in the marketplace of central Canada. We are concerned about the Government's intention in that area. Why has the Government not designated some money toward the long-term solution of this marketing problem?

If the Government is bound and determined to kill the Maritime Freight Rates Act and stop the social and economic benefits that flow therefrom to producers, truck operators and railways in terms of access to central Canadian markets, it should earmark some money for offshore development. The Government should give that money to the wandering minstrel, the only Member who is in the House as infrequently as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), my colleague from across the harbour in Halifax, the wandering trade Minister. I have not seen him in the House since Christmas.

Mr. Nowlan: Marco Polo.

Mr. Forrestall: Incidentally, the same Minister went to Halifax recently. Let me finish by talking about long-term benefits. He announced the provision of \$52 million for a federal office building to be erected on a prime piece of Halifax waterfront to house all the federal public servants in Halifax. He would then empty Queen's Square in Dartmouth and empty about eight major office buildings that are strategically located around the city. This action would probably bankrupt the entrepreneurs who own those office buildings. Furthermore, he will put that building on a piece of land that has long been earmarked for the cultural needs of our Province and the metropolitan area. He has earmarked \$52 million for this project when Nova Scotia needs a new provincial hospital, the construction of which has been shelved for three or four years because we do not have the funds.

Bridge pier fendering is needed from Halifax to Vancouver in order to protect lives. But is there any money earmarked for a project like that, which is a long term, permanent and visible legacy? No. Instead, the Government borrows and borrows to the point where no Government will be able to move anywhere in an economic sense by the mid 1980s. The cost of servicing our debt will be astronomical and almost undefinable. That Government will keep on borrowing until it is thrown out of office.

God help one of those distinguished Canadians who is seeking the leadership of my Party when he must face the mess that will be left as a result of this Government's irrational and irresponsible borrowing. This massive irresponsible borrowing is compounded by the fact that the money is not being spent for medium or long-term job creation or on projects which will have a permanent legacy. It is not being spent in order to give incentives to the entrepreneurs and businessmen of this country, the manufacturers. That is what we regret and why we stand today to condemn the Government for its ad hoc approach, boorish and downright crass porkbarrelling. It is to be rejected by every thoughtful and thinking person. The Minister laughs because he has won for his colleagues in the backbenches of the Liberal Party every little thing that they want and to hell with the rest of Canada.

Supply

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire whether questions will be posed to the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall)? I intend to speak on this motion and I am prepared to do so, but perhaps some Hon. Members wish to ask questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are Hon. Members rising to ask questions of the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East?

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I would ask my hon. friend if he knows the whereabouts of the Atlantic Members on the Government side? Are they out carving up the pork barrel that he referred to in his remarks?

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I do not know where they are today. I do not know where the Hon. Member for South West Nova is or where Members from northern New Brunswick are. I do not know where my colleagues from Newfoundland are. Given the long weekend, I do not think it would be hard to find them. I will tell you where they are. One of them at least is in northern New Brunswick, at a \$15 million resource centre, which is very vital and necessary, but in three years' time, when the single purpose for which it was built has come to an end and it is over and done with, it will be another white elephant in northern New Brunswick as a result of the activities of this Government.

• (1250)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there other Hon. Members rising to ask questions? If not, I will recognize the Minister of State for Economic Development (Mr. Johnston).

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat disappointed in the comments made by the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) for whom I have a great deal of time and respect. I would like, in the few minutes available to me, to relieve him of the anxieties and concerns which he apparently feels with respect to the Special Recovery Program, over which I as head of a subcommittee of Cabinet have over-all responsibility. When I refer to over-all responsibility, I mean to say responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of these projects to ensure that they move forward expeditiously and meet the criteria laid down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) at the time he tabled his budget in April, and ensuring that they, in turn, are brought in on time and within the budget.

The Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East, I think, has perhaps not examined as he should have the nature of these projects, their intended purpose and the fact that they will indeed bring into existence long-term permanent jobs for Canadians.

Let me for a moment talk about the program in general and then deal with the situation in Nova Scotia, which I might say is a Province to which I am deeply attached myself, not having had the fortune to be born there but having had the wisdom to marry a Nova Scotian and to spend a good deal of time in