

supported by members of the Conservative and NDP parties, but was unanimously passed by members of the Liberal party as well as members of the Conservative and NDP. It said that the last postal rate was illegal, and that suggestion was supported by members of both Houses of Parliament. In spite of that, a minister of the government has said he does not care whether it is legal or illegal, he intends to go ahead with it anyway.

I also consider what the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and Senator Jack Marshall, who was the veterans affairs critic in this House before being summoned to the other place, have attempted. Those two gentlemen have asked the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) to do certain things for widows of veterans and for veterans themselves by simply living up to the promises this government has made to a dwindling group of Canadians. They have asked this government simply to comply with doctrines that are existent. They have combined, time after time, to move motions under Standing Order 43, but members on the government side have turned them down. I suppose they have done that because they are worried about restraints on spending. But when this government wastes money as though it were going out of style, then I say we need a comptroller general in this country.

At the report stage of this bill we moved amendments that would give the comptroller general some power and some status in law. We moved amendments to give him some way to muscle into that club of deputy ministers in order to do his job, by requiring them to perform according to guidelines rather than by order in council or guidelines that have come from the bowels of government behind the green covered doors. We tried in that way to give the comptroller general the power to require performance according to the guidelines adopted in the open here in this place, yet we heard government members say they would not give us that kind of regulation.

In view of all this, I say to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and to Senator Jack Marshall that they ought not wonder why their reasonable requests, made on behalf of widows, veterans, widows of veterans, unmarried people, and spouses left alone as a result of death, have fallen on barren ground, because this is the kind of government we have, and this is the kind of government that had to be kicked into acceptance of the concept of a comptroller general in the first place. However, when we try to arm the comptroller general with some teeth, the government turns us back.

There are many things to be done in this country. I think of many people I have met who are handicapped and are trying to enter the public service, and trying to find a place in other areas of employment, asking only to be given a chance to compete as equals, all to no avail. They are not asking for special treatment, they just want an equal opportunity.

When I read that report prepared jointly by Treasury Board and the staff of the Public Service Commission and hear the minister say that his heart is in the right place—and I think it is—but he can support only these baby steps of implementation because to do otherwise would be very costly, and I stack

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this against the wastage which is set forth in this book, then I despair and wonder about the meaning of words such as honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, things that we ought to expect of this government.

Surely all of us have seen that brief relating to funding of research and development prepared by the Canadian Advanced Technology Association for consideration by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien). I am not going to read it now, but it asks for a reasonable and certain approach to a funding program for research and development in order to assist in the development of Canadian industry, and employment opportunities for Canadians. When I think of the waste of some of the government programs, waste so great that we do not have any money for these programs of merit, then I say this makes the Minister of Finance look pretty sick when he suggests the opposition is always advocating the spending of money.

● (1542)

There are great things to be done in this country. There are things that can be done for the disadvantaged. We have come to be accustomed to accepting second best, the lowest common denominator, because that is the kind of government we have. There are the disadvantaged, but there are advantages to be had, there are opportunities that we can build. There is an economic sector crying out for action and industrial strategy that should be put forward by this government. There are employment opportunities that should be made in the private sector and condoned by a government that really cares. It is no answer to say "you are going to spend money," when so much money is being wasted.

If there are some hon. members who have not seen a copy of that book, I would suggest they read it. It is important that we understand that there has to be a program with respect to spending and, indeed, there must be with respect to approaches to programs. That has not happened here.

As a result of this waste, senior citizens right now are saying, "I have inadequate housing; I don't know how I can make ends meet; I have to give up my home." Veterans come to me and say—and this is not unique to myself—"I am having trouble. Would you see what you can do about having the Pension Commission look at my pension?" Young people come to me and say that they want to work and they want opportunities to use the skills we asked them to get so the world would be their oyster, so that we would benefit from their learning. In the face of all this the government—leaderless, directionless, listing and drifting—allows these opportunities to pass by, and these people who are disadvantaged remain disadvantaged.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired. He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.