

must be reached before an equitable quality of life can be reached, not only by Canadians but by our neighbours, all of our neighbours on planet earth.

The growing problem of poverty and people's anxieties can only be resolved through the creation of wealth. No country on earth has a greater potential to serve mankind than this country of ours. If only we had honest political leadership instead of a group of intellectuals using it as a laboratory for political revolution then this potential would be realized.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, in place today we have a bureaucracy which honestly believes it knows better than the millions of people working in widely diverse activities under the rule of law. Our dilemma today in this country is the maximizing of the "take" from the wage earner to the point where the effort to add to the value of goods is no longer worth while. They have taken the incentive and the will to work away from the people. History is repeating itself. It is entirely possible that we are trapped in the inevitability of human frailty and human nature which has caused the failure of ten preceding civilizations. It is entirely possible, as the Prime Minister said some months ago, that "the enemy is us" and that we will not face the truth of our problems and our dilemma; we would rather play political games with an apathetic population.

As Sir John Glubb pointed out in the *Canada Law Gazette* in 1976 the stages of the rise and fall of great nations seem to be:

The Age of Pioneers,
The Age of Conquests,
The Age of Commerce,
The Age of Affluence,
The Age of Intellect—

We have just come through that age.

The Age of Decadence.

Decadence is marked by:

Defensiveness,
Pessimism,
Materialism,
Frivolity,
An Influx of Foreigners,
The Welfare State,
A Weakening of Religion.

Decadence is due to:

Too long a period of wealth and power,
Selfishness,
Love of money,
The loss of a sense of duty.

I think we see too much of that today in this country. Today, in 1980, we have a report from the Economic Council of Canada which is entitled "A Climate of Uncertainty." We have been warned of the consequences of removing decision-

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making base from the private sector. And here it is, we are facing it. We have a debate tonight on the economic crisis which this nation is facing.

Mr. Speaker, our troubles really started in that coalition government in the 1972-1974 period when we got that Benson tax legislation and that principle of a buck is a buck, is a buck. That was given to us in the guise of fair-sharing, more equity and delivery. Most of us accepted that there was some justification in that. But today we have very expensive dollars, or bucks, in the private sector. They are so expensive they cannot be risked; there is too much sweat and effort behind them. The bureaucracy use very cheap bucks which are printed by a machine—the machine of government. Those cheap dollars are being used to destroy the private sector. There is no way the private sector can create the wealth to compete with the power of take-over and buy-outs which the federal government has. The cry from the private sector is due to the reckless, irresponsible way the bureaucracy spends the sweat of labour, all under the guise of fair-sharing. People in this land are generally proud to pay their taxes, and are proud of the amount they pay. But they do object to it being wasted and squandered, used unwisely, which is the history of this Liberal government.

The federal government sees that \$10 billion heritage fund in Alberta, which is set aside to build wealth-creating industry that will last long after the non-renewable resources are gone, as a sinful thing, and by hook or by crook they want it to squander as they have squandered the wealth of this nation over the last 16 years.

I am at some risk with respect to my next comments. The real tragedy started, I think, when we lost our great opportunity, when we failed to fully study and discuss the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. If we had gone ahead with that project we would have had a transportation system moving the energy of the North Slope down across this country and to our neighbour to the south, upon whom we depend for our freedom. As the Minister of Finance has stated tonight, we are closely tied, in economic terms, to our neighbour to the south. For \$8 billion that transportation system could have been in place and that tax revenue would have been in place for the communities. The native people would have had the benefit of the schools which would have been created. The \$22 million the federal government spent on the transportation system up through that valley would have been used to benefit those people. We would have had people working. We would have had steel mills working. As a result, we would have had wages and taxes and some \$3 billion less unemployment insurance to pay. We would have had pumping stations and roads. And just as all that was phasing out, Mr. Speaker, we would have been able to start another tar sands plant. We would have been able to get on with the Cold Lake project. Where on planet earth is there a nation which has ever been given more opportunity than Canada? And what has this government done? They have squandered it and thrown the opportunity away. They have caused megaproject after megaproject to be backed up, with no action at all—nothing but confusion. There will be all of these megaprojects coming in at once and there will be