

*Supply*

The province of Ontario contributes 43 per cent of national taxes but gets 30 per cent in return. Ottawa pays 50 per cent of social assistance in other provinces but only 29 per cent in Ontario, even though the province has more than one million people on welfare. The federal contribution to health and post-secondary education is down to 31 per cent, compared to 52 per cent three years ago. Ontario has also been hit hardest by the economic policies of the federal government. It has lost 80 per cent of the manufacturing jobs. They have disappeared in this recession.

The motion before us suggests that we should condemn the government. However, I suspect that Canadians are tired of politicians and political parties on a continual bent to condemn one another for their actions or for their lack of activity. I suggest it certainly behoves us rather than condemning and severely criticizing one another to get together and attempt to work together to get this country out of this severe recession, if not depression, we are presently in.

I appreciate that this may be perceived as a scatter-gun approach, but I wanted to hit upon just a few government policies that have not been highlighted for quite a while.

• (1650)

I want to talk about the Hibernia project. We supported it but we believe it has been misguided in many of its guidelines that the federal government forged for the Canadian people. In this \$5.2 billion megaproject for Canada, Canadian content has not been guaranteed. It is probably one of the few countries in the world that could forge such a megaproject and not have Canadian content assured.

About one and a half years ago Algoma Steel in my riding said: "We are shut out of the steel contract in Hibernia. A Korean firm is going to get it. There is no doubt in our minds that they dumped the product on the Canadian scene".

Algoma Steel is in difficulty. I went out to St. John's and I received a good audience and a good explanation. I was told at that time: "We are still on target. We are going to have 65 per cent to 70 per cent Canadian content". The then minister told me not to worry, Canadian content was going to be on stream.

As it turns out, they took a review of Canadian content in the Hibernia project. However six months later various Canadian manufacturers and specifically MIL Davie shipbuilding of Quebec said that not only could they not get involved but they could not even bid on the contracts. They were being shut out completely from the market.

The Algoma Steel situation was never resolved to our liking. We could have brought charges of dumping, but that is costly and we do not have the time nor the moneys to proceed.

As we proceeded, we found the target for Canadian content was just that. It was not written in the contract. As time progressed, the amount of Canadian content decreased from that 65 per cent to 75 per cent down to 55 per cent to 60 per cent.

We found out just a couple of weeks ago that the minister admitted to being foiled over Hibernia contracts. He admitted that he could not get the major oil consortiums to allow Canadian bidding on the Hibernia project. Here is a Canadian megaproject and we could not negotiate appropriate Canadian content. There is one misguided policy.

The minister who spoke just prior talked about the next election. He said that it will not be about major frameworks. He said that it is not going to be about free trade agreements. It is not going to be about NAFTA because the frameworks are in place. The election is going to be fought community by community, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, household by household. I happen to agree with that latter comment.

However, to suggest that the frameworks will be insignificant is not acceptable. If the framework above is faulty, one must accept the fact that the structure below that framework is also faulty and will not survive.

Some of the members I have listened to this afternoon from the government side made much ado about trade agreements, the successes of free trade and the prospective success of NAFTA.

I suspect these people have not left the city of Ottawa. If they have been to Mexico, they have spent too much time in the resorts. They have not seen the reality of the Maquiladora in Mexico. They have not seen the exploitation of Mexican labourers.