

Employment Incentive Programs

Canada obtains some grants, the sword of Damocles is dangling over our heads, which is deplorable.

In my constituency, industry and commerce are perhaps thriving. The shipyards, thanks to the new policy of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), have provided employment and are in a position to compete against many others who are unable to outdo us. The reason is that in my constituency the government has carried out a policy which makes it possible to meet labour costs and which has created 3,700 jobs last year alone.

I do not therefore understand why we do not give more serious consideration to the programs set up by the government. When government members rise in this House, I wish they could have at least 30 or 45 minutes. This might be fastidious for those listening to us, but we could then at least once or twice a year, tell opposition members what the government is doing and they could in turn go and ask their constituents whether they are really satisfied. Then, the farm organizations which visit the ridings of opposition members—which I, for one, did—would not be so disappointed to find out that citizens are not informed at all about all that the country is doing for them. This is deplorable, and I do think that those who are indulging in political games in this House may soon find out that the achievements of this government prove that the motion introduced today was in no way justifiable.

• (2150)

[English]

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I shall take part in the debate briefly because the area that I represent feels that it has been disadvantaged by the application of the DREE legislation. In this area we feel that we suffer from unfair competition, with many other parts of the country, because of this government's transportation policy. Our railroad costs are high, and now we feel our problem has been compounded by the DREE program.

Many of the points I wish to make have been covered, some of them very well, by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid). In his forthright manner he has a habit of hitting the nail on the head. It was refreshing to have him come out with the honest statement that the DREE legislation was drafted in an effort to discriminate against wealthy areas. As I have said, the people in the area I represent feel that DREE discriminates against them. I think this is completely wrong, Mr. Speaker. Abraham Lincoln was right when he said over a hundred years ago, and I paraphrase him, "You don't necessarily help the poor by tearing down the rich". I would point out to this government that tearing down the "have" parts of the country does not necessarily build the "have-not" parts in view of the conflicts that take place and the wasted effort.

A few nights ago, during private members' hour, the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. McBride) introduced a bill. He told us that in Carleton Place, which is a non-designated area, the Findlay Foundry has shut down completely, with a loss of 200 jobs. It transferred its production to the province of Quebec, in a designated area. Ostensibly, 200 jobs have been created in Quebec

[Mr. Côté.]

but of course there are 200 less in Ontario, so the net gain to the nation as a whole is nil. Indeed, the net loss to the nation as a whole, in my humble opinion, would be the amount of the DREE grant.

I read in a newspaper recently of a \$685,000 grant to Catelli Foods, a subsidiary of the American firm, General Foods. This grant was to enable them to build a plant to produce tomato paste from tomatoes imported from Portugal, Spain and Yugoslavia. Mr. Speaker, the area I come from is one of the prime tomato producing areas in Canada, but there it is impossible for a farmer to get a contract to grow tomatoes. However, the government is now subsidizing a company in Montreal to process imported tomatoes.

Farmers from my area have been coming to Ottawa to meet with officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Department of Agriculture in an effort to re-establish the sugar beet industry. So far they have not been successful. But there is some discussion of a new sugar refinery to be built at Cornwall, Ontario, which is a designated area, in order to process imported cane sugar. That mill might have gone to Oshawa, Ontario, except that Oshawa is not a designated area. These are the things, Mr. Speaker, that lead the people in my area to feel that we have been discriminated against and, as the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River pointed out tonight, perhaps this was the purpose behind the legislation.

In the 30 seconds remaining to me I should like to ask some questions about the Opportunities for Youth program and the Local Initiatives Program. What is their purpose? Are they make-work programs? Are they to be permanent? I do not criticize them except to say that I am afraid in many instances they do not encourage positive production. If we had a booming economy, perhaps then we could enjoy that luxury.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

ENERGY—POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH EASTERN ARCTIC—ASSURANCE OF MAJORITY CANADIAN OWNERSHIP—HYPOTHECATION OF GAS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, on June 7 last, as reported at page 2937 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) two questions with respect to the operations of Panarctic Oil Company Limited. As hon. members know, this is one of the commendable things which the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Laing) accomplished when he was minister of Indian affairs and northern development. He set up a consortium of Canadian companies with the government of Canada, which has enabled the Canadian people to hold 45 per cent of the equity in Panarctic Oil Company Limited.