

C-19—but, rather, to spend less and to spend it in the right direction.

I draw Your Honour's attention to the farce, the shocking misuse of funds in the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière project, a name which has a very unpleasant odour in this House. It will cost \$16.7 million in annual rent, when in other forms it could be done for \$7.5 million. In addition, it will cost \$54 million to purchase, plus \$1 per year to lease the parking lot, shopping centre and hotel areas. One is permitted to ask: Just how much is somebody getting out of this? Whose pocket is being lined in this peccadillo? I predict that eventually this project will be shot down and subjected to full investigation, as it so richly deserves.

● (1620)

The Department of Public Works can get into this kind of deal, but it cannot afford to spend \$15,000 or \$20,000 to rebuild a couple of wharves which it constructed 20 years ago and then allowed to go into disrepair. There are some classic examples of this neglect on the west coast, in the maritimes and right in Kootenay West. Why should Public Works need 8,966 employees in what is nothing but a real estate division of government—employees who are demoralized because their department is no longer following its mandate and because the work force is no longer able to fill a meaningful role? Only last week I had the opportunity to discuss with a civil servant working in the department the problems he faces. Insufficient funds are provided for the work which the department normally carries out, the work it traditionally carries out, because the money needed is being channelled into a real estate division.

We hear talk about funding priorities. When I look at some of the programs which have been implemented by the CBC, some of the wasteful expenditures this outfit has perpetrated on the Canadian people, I am saddened almost beyond expression. Yet it is impossible to get three thousand lousy dollars out of the CBC for television service to 700 people in my area who stand no chance of receiving any communications, whether by radio or television, in my riding for another eight years. What kind of priorities is the corporation working on in British Columbia? We are told by the CBC that under the accelerated coverage plan 99.9 per cent of Canadians will have coverage available to them in the near future. That is rubbish. Their priorities are garbled and mixed up and they cannot even come up with three thousand bucks. That is the equivalent of the cost of a one-year lease for a four-wheeled drive vehicle, complete with mag wheels and wide tires, such as the corporation uses to drive around the streets of Vancouver; it never gets up into the hills where its capability could be utilized.

**Mr. Blais:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Brisco:** As soon as I have completed my speech. With crime on the increase, I am concerned that in its strange mixture of priorities the government should have seen fit to cut two classes of the RCMP in Regina. What kind of a move is that? It is insensitive; it is stupid.

### *Restraint of Government Expenditures*

People over there have got their priorities all mixed up. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni said of the new member of parliament for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) that he did not know what he was talking about when in his maiden speech he complained of the failure of DREE in Newfoundland. This instant expert from Comox-Alberni who claimed, by inference, to have a deep understanding of the DREE program, does not even serve on the Standing Committee on Regional Economic Expansion. He shows an incredible lack of credibility. As recorded at page 999 of *Hansard*, he says he cannot get a sou from DREE. Then at page 1000 he is reported as saying:

I do not think the public are getting a fair deal from the official opposition at this time. I suspect they are taking money under false pretences.

Mr. Speaker, I consider that remark to be in contempt; I consider it to be scurrilous. I believe the hon. member for Comox-Alberni shows total lack of understanding of the role played so effectively in the constituencies by members of the official opposition.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brisco:** I challenge that statement as being close to contempt. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni has no idea how DREE operates. Let me assure members on the government side that I have done my homework as far as DREE is concerned. I know where the problems are in British Columbia. They do not arise with the provincial government, but with the federal government.

I said last week that in one grant the government provided sufficient funds to establish one industry in the province of Quebec. I do not begrudge the province of Quebec the jobs which that industry will generate. But, as an indication of priorities, let me remind hon. members that the government provided an amount of \$6 million for the establishment of that one industry, and that this one expenditure, this one grant, exceeded by \$300,000 the total amount of DREE money that has ever been put into British Columbia to help establish industry or expand existing industry there from 1969 to date. What kind of a record is that? Is this not an indication of the government's spending priorities?

I should like to express briefly my concern with regard to the removal of section 272 from the Railway Act. This aspect of the debate has been admirably covered by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton). The history of the government indicates that this is the precursor of further changes and that the abolition of the Crownsnest Pass rates is really what they have in mind in repealing section 272. The clause in Bill C-19 which would bring this about involves the lifeblood of the nation, that is to say, transport.

This brings me to the reprehensible conduct of the Department of Transport in dealing with the people who live on British Columbia's west coast—the people of Bella Bella, the people of Ocean Falls, the people of Stuart, among other coastline communities. According to the newspapers recently, the hon. member for Skeena (Mrs. Campagnolo) said of her fellow Liberal, the hon. member for Coast Chilcotin (Mr. Pearsall) that he was emotionally overwrought. The hon.