

of this agreement marked the beginning of the real fight against acid rain.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

FUNDING OF MIRABEL AIRPORT AND OF BELL HELICOPTER PLANT

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, the current Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) has publicly stated that the Government has erected one Taj Mahal after another because there is no one to complain about these horrendous monuments to the Liberal Party. There have always been complaints. The real problem is that the Government does not listen to them.

I, for one, will speak out against the billions of dollars that the Government has wasted, and intends to waste, sponsoring uneconomic megaprojects. Nine years ago \$500 million went to build the great Mirabel airport which was proven unnecessary before it was built. It now operates at less than one-tenth of its capacity.

This morning, newspapers suggested that the \$514 million Bell Helicopter Texron project financed by the federal Government would likely cost additional millions of dollars because the Agriculture Lands Protection Commission has refused to reclassify the originally chosen land for industrial purposes. This is something which should have been checked out in the first place. Who knows how much this one will end up costing taxpayers in the long run?

Government spending is simply out of control. It is time to put an end to uneconomic spending for political reasons, and time to begin using logic to get the country back on the track to recovery. My Party will do that after the next election.

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HEALTH

LICENSING OF FOREIGN BORN DOCTORS

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, last week the Hon. Member for Hamilton West (Mr. Hudecki), who in fact is a medical doctor by profession, drew the attention of the House to the serious and long-standing problem which has developed regarding the licensing of foreign-trained medical doctors to practise in Canada.

For over a year I have been closely monitoring the situation of foreign born doctors who fled hostile environments and have received landed immigrant status. Most of these doctors have successfully completed their training, have acquired important specializations, and have practised medicine prior to coming to Canada.

I have taken the initiative to make representations on behalf of these refugee doctors to federal and provincial authorities so that they may be granted internships on a special basis. To

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date all I have received from them is a lot of buck-passing between the two levels of government. I am told that, due to the shortage of residency training facilities in Canada, they are unable to complete their internship requirements in order to qualify for licensing examinations.

It is crucial that all provinces begin to address this problem by providing additional openings each year, specifically to refugee doctors. Such exceptions have been made in the past for refugee doctors and dentists from Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

I would also call upon the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) to convene a meeting of federal and provincial health officials to discuss various options which would allow these doctors to practise in Canada. We can no longer accept the argument that Canada is over supplied with doctors when there is a serious shortage of medical personnel in remote areas. I urge the Government—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

POSITION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ON INTEREST RATES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, we have been treated to quite a spectacle in the House over the last few days as the Conservatives try to come to grips with their policy on rising interest rates. One day they are concerned about interest rates, and the next day they are concerned about the falling dollar. Perhaps it is the approaching election which is causing such confusion among the Conservatives, so perhaps I can help by reminding them just what their policies have been over the last few years.

When he was Minister of Finance, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) told the House of Commons that there was no reasonable alternative to high interest rates. When he was back in Opposition in 1981, he told a CTV interviewer:

Yes, I would continue to back Mr. Bouey. I agree that our interest rates have to track those in the United States.

The Hon. Member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) was even more blunt in 1982. He said, at the height of our interest rate prices, that lowering interest rates was "a quick fix" and that he agreed with the course of the then Minister of Finance, the present Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen).

Perhaps we cannot depend on what the Conservatives say; perhaps we should look at what they do. When they were in power, interest rates began their climb and were at 14 per cent by the time they lost the election. Maybe those facts will help the Conservatives in their confusion, and remind both the Conservatives and the Canadian people of what we could expect from a Tory government.