

because he has to negotiate with the provinces and they are not going to come across. Well, the time for negotiation is over. He can simply put the money out and say: "We have done our part. Here it is. This is not enough, but it is something". To hang on to that money is showing a callous disregard for the lives and the welfare of families living in rural Canada. That is simply what it is doing. There are families who are suffering in western Canada. They are suffering economically and this government is sitting on \$500 million while that is happening.

In Saskatchewan, 16 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line and the government is sitting on \$500 million. There are 60,000 people who are leaving the province because they cannot find work and the government sitting on \$500 million. People do not understand that because it does not make any sense.

The motion is very simple and straightforward. Let us put the money out where it will do some good, and at the same time let the government make a commitment. We do not need rhetoric. We know that it has put billions of dollars out into the agriculture economy. That is not denied, but it has been misappropriated. It has not done the good that it could have done. It has been basically thrown around during election times to get votes and it had some effect there.

Make that commitment to the people. Make that commitment to rural Canada. Make that commitment to the people in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and right across the country, as far as that goes. It is needed and it is needed now because we have a rural Canada whose infrastructure is disappearing, it is collapsing, and it is going to be gone. If we do not do something and do it very quickly a whole way of life is going to disappear. The government can say that the bottom line is important. In fact, that is what this government does say: "We have to look at the bottom line on this issue".

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about people's lives. There is more to life than simply the bottom line. That may be the Conservative attitude, but this is a different Tory government sitting here than the Tory government of John Diefenbaker. It is a new type of Tory. This is a neo-conservative government, that is what that is. It is a bottom line government that is paying no attention to the lives of Canadians.

Supply

The Minister of Finance can stand in the House, or in other forums and state: "We have come through economic times and now is time to tighten your belt". I would like him to go out to Saskatchewan or to rural Manitoba and tell some of those people that it is time for them to tighten their belts. They have tightened their belts and there are no notches left. In fact, it is so tight they are leaving for other areas.

I would suggest to the minister that when they talk about the bottom line there is another line there too. As the rural infrastructure collapses, instead of having a viable economy where there are many people working and many people living, we are going to have a barren rural area, with people crowding into urban centres competing with other people who do not have jobs themselves.

There is a fundamental problem with the policy that this government is following. The problem is that the government is not committing itself to the future of a way of life that is important to us all.

I would simply like to close by calling upon this government to make an announcement today concerning its \$500 million. The money is needed right now. The government must make the commitment that not only will it spend the \$500 million, but that it will make a long-term commitment to rural Canada.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the member on a fabulous speech and a great motion. When I heard the cynicism from the government side when they were heckling during his speech I re-read his motion and I could not understand why he was—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the Minister of Grains and Oilseeds.

Mr. Mayer: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is accusing the government of heckling. I want the record to show that nobody on this side heckled the member when he was speaking.

Mr. Mills: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, there was heckling on the other side and there were other people who heard it.

Mr. Friesen: *Hansard* will show you are wrong.

• (1530)

Mr. Mills: Mr. Speaker, the point that I am trying to make is that the member's motion is something that we