

Restraint of Government Expenditures

If the Moores administration is poor, why should the hon. member come into this House and criticize the federal government without mentioning the billions of federal money which are going into Atlantic Canada to assist provincial governments in almost every phase of their activities—education, health and welfare, infrastructure, transportation and so on? Identify any area you like and you will find that the majority of the dollars going into that program are federal dollars.

I have talked about equalization payments but I have not said a word about the DREE money which is going into his province. It is time it was stated publicly that we should be proud that we are putting this money into places like eastern Canada to assist people in Atlantic Canada attain the same standard of living as the people of Alberta.

● (2140)

I wonder why the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) does not talk with the premier of Alberta and some of his people in that province who last year told us in the east to freeze in the dark. Has he said anything about assisting us through the use of natural resources, which are Canadian natural resources? As Canadians we are entitled to share in the benefits derived from those resources. But no, Mr. Speaker, the premier of Alberta wants to salt the money away and get interest on the investment at the expense of Canadians. I submit there is a heavy onus on the Leader of the Opposition to speak to the premier of Alberta, since they are of the same party faith. The hon. member for St. John's West would also be well advised to speak to those in other provinces if he wants to cry about the problems in his own province.

As I said earlier this evening, I support Bill C-19 because these are measures that the Canadian people want the government to take. We have reduced federal expenditures to the tune of \$1.5 billion. It would be nice to spend \$2 million, \$5 million or \$10 million in some of these small municipalities, but people will always keep demanding more and more services, more of everything, and we all know there is no bottomless pit. There must be a halt to these kinds of pressures.

When one realizes what it costs to operate this House, Mr. Speaker, it is sad that no reasonable suggestions come from the other side. I wonder why the official opposition do not put forward reasonable alternatives if they are concerned at the expenditures of the federal government. Why do they not come to grips with the realities of life in Canada today? Why do they not accept their responsibility and be serious about providing a reasonable opposition in this parliament?

I am convinced that the steps being taken today as a result of the dynamic leadership being shown by the government will be proven in years to come to have been necessary measures to take at this particular time. In the province of New Brunswick federal money is pouring in, but what is the Hatfield administration doing with its allotted federal funds? Some \$9.5 million are being allotted to bilingualism over and above the half billion dollars provided New Brunswick in the form of equalization payments, and over and above all the DREE grants, the \$35 million spent on water and sewage systems, the \$60

[Mr. Harquail.]

million poured into route 11 for the construction of the highway between Moncton and Campbellton, in regard to which that particular Conservative administration has been dragging its feet, refusing to accept its responsibilities, its promises and commitments to the people of the province. The members of that administration have failed miserably in carrying out their duties in office, duties they promised to perform at the last provincial election.

I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that all members must accept the fact that large amounts of money must be poured into areas such as Atlantic Canada. The day will come when the hon. member for St. John's West will have to reconsider some of the statements he made this afternoon. He did not take the opportunity to tell the House that Mr. Smallwood and the two or three members of his independent party have just recently returned to the Liberal party in Newfoundland. In view of the stature and character of a man like Mr. Smallwood, the hon. member for St. John's West should get in touch with him and discuss his political philosophies. Perhaps he will see the error of his ways and, having gone from Liberal to Conservative, come back to the Liberal side again, where obviously he should have remained in the first place.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): La même chose.

Mr. Harquail: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) says, "La même chose." I would agree with him, as I have the pleasure of doing from time to time when he brings forward reasonable suggestions in the House.

I want to take the opportunity this evening to say how important it is that the money saved through the cutback in expenditure be directed to those areas that need additional financial support. We have talked about provinces that are better off than other provinces, and in the riding I represent we need every dollar we can get in order to survive and to develop at a pace that will ensure our survival in the future.

I agree with the government that it should make cutbacks in the civil service. In view of the over-expenditure and abuse that has taken place in the civil service sector, there is no question that we must take dynamic action and see that various positions are analysed and, where feasible, cutbacks are made. In almost every department one can find inefficiency and low production. We would be well advised to make some additional in depth studies in this regard because I am confident that there are some more savings to be made which would reduce federal expenditures in this time of restraint.

In recent months even people in the labour movement have spoken of the benefits coming from the restraint program. Recent statistics bear this out. I am not referring to political statements by the government; these are facts, and they show that the program is working and that the people are satisfied with the action that has been taken by the government.

I would not want to miss this opportunity as a member from New Brunswick of saying I support the decentralization program. Not only do I support it but I am very interested in where jobs will be relocated. One of the first moves that was made was to Matane, Quebec. Then another section of the