

Government Orders

before to get through this recessionary period. We are doing a pretty good job of it in this country.

What that party opposite cannot accept is that it has a premier in power now by the name of Bob Rae who is finally realizing that with power comes responsibility and decision making. It is something it never had to do before in this country. I want to focus on the government of Ontario's throne speech of yesterday. I am going to quote a few lines from today's *Financial Post* and what it had to tell us about Mr. Rae. What they are attempting to do on the other side is lay all of their difficulties in our lap.

Mr. Samson: No, just most of them.

Mr. Thompson: Just most of them. I am glad he is on the record by saying "Just most of them". At least he admits that they are trying to dump them on somebody else.

Quoting from today's *Financial Post* with regard to yesterday's throne speech in Toronto:

Premier Bob Rae's government simply doesn't get it. Yesterday's throne speech in Ontario pays lip service at long last to the reality that "a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector". But the NDP policies outlined in the speech betray a woeful absence of understanding as to how to achieve that goal. Canada's post-war prosperity has been due to its enormously successful trading relationship with the U.S., protected under the free trade agreement. It also has had to do with Canada's reputation of being a fair and attractive place to foreign investors.

That is something that the NDP missed. They do not understand how the economy operates. In the province of Ontario they are scaring away investors. Because they are scaring away investors, they are scaring away jobs. Jobs mean revenues for governments, when people are out there making a living and paying their taxes. What is happening in Ontario now that international companies are deserting Ontario? They are going some place else. The resulting deficit is growing in Ontario because the lack of confidence is creating some problems for those people. What is the Ontario government doing? It is unloading its problems on us. That is exactly what it is doing.

Coming around to Bill C-60, they did not want to talk about Bill C-60. They want to talk about something else and that something else has nothing to do with the reality. The truth is that over the years, we have

increased our payments and our major transfers to the province of Ontario. They have grown significantly in Ontario. I almost picked up Saskatchewan. I would not want to use those figures because they are even more in our favour.

Transfers to Ontario have grown at an annual average rate of 6.2 per cent since we took office. They cannot ignore that. Imagine, transfers to our largest province with the largest industrial sector, Ontario, this year will exceed \$9.9 billion. That is spelled with a *b*, billion, \$9.9 billion. That by the way will account for 20 per cent of little old Ontario's economy. That is what this Bill C-60 does. It continues those transfers to the provinces.

What these people have successfully done is hold this bill up. I mentioned earlier today that my province of New Brunswick is due to receive in the next couple of weeks or should have received \$77 million from this government. That puts those transfers in jeopardy.

Maybe to people in rich Ontario it does not mean anything, but in a province like mine where we are depending on those transfers for 40 per cent of our revenues, we need those moneys. We do not want this bill stalled. As far as I am concerned, we will continually support the government in its desire to transfer those dollars to those have not provinces.

Let us not lose the argument. They do not want to argue on the specifics. They want to argue on vague generalities. They want to put the bogeyman into the darkness. No matter what area you are talking about, it is always the bogeyman behind the corner. That is not real. The reality is that we are doing a good job and we have not reneged on our commitments to the provinces. They cannot deny that.

I am pleased to support Bill C-60. I will entertain any questions or comments from the opposition on this.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I will talk about Bill C-60. I have been talking about the subject matter of Bill C-60 ever since I have been here. I will do so in my own intervention subsequently.

The hon. member believes that the Conservative government has been a mad success, that it has done such wonderful things and that the real bogeyman is the NDP. He has spent much time talking about the NDP.