

Mr. McDermid: Someone says "Oh, come on." Well, all we have heard since Christmas is "blender, blender, blender" and we haven't seen a darned thing come out of it yet.

A turning point in the history of this great country has just passed. It has shown me that Canada wants to stay united. I hope the government realizes that it has an opportunity not seen since 1867 to let the youth become the new pioneers in shaping Canada. Obviously, they ought to commit themselves to a program of reducing the enormous burden with which our young people are confronted. They ought to be giving them a fair fighting chance. But they are not. They are just piling up this debt. The party opposite has no concern at all for the youth of Canada or for the future of Canada.

Mr. Regan: Enough concern to put a 13-cent tax on.

Mr. McDermid: Slow down, you will have your turn. When members of our party were on the government side we had respect for this House and for the Canadian people. The present government continues to shroud its feelings—

An hon. Member: They voted you out!

Mr. McDermid: Well, we are represented in every province of this country. So keep yapping over there. The Canadian people need, and indeed deserve, honest government, a government which is not afraid to tell the public the cold, hard facts about the state of the economy. Open and honest government is the key to a democratic society. It was a great honour to serve as a member of that government, a government that was open, a government that was approachable, a government which was honest. Why is it that the born-again leader of the Liberals and his recycled cabinet are letting this great country slip into a serious state of financial dependence on foreign countries?

An hon. Member: Sour grapes.

Mr. McDermid: I heard sour grapes this afternoon. I heard my leprechaun friend from the great land of Lincoln get up and criticize us for dwelling in the past. I am talking about a bill which is current, but let me just cover a couple of the facts that he referred to this afternoon. I know he is Irish. I know he is full of the blarney and I know he likes to exaggerate a bit. But he stood up this afternoon and stated that the budget presented by the former government projected 13 per cent unemployment. Well, I don't see that in it at all. In fact, there are no projections over 8.3 per cent for unemployment. The hon. member did that during the campaign as well and misled the Canadian people. He also said this afternoon—and the record will show it—that tax credits are great except they don't help the poor. Something he forgot to mention was that it was a negative tax credit and that, in fact, the money would be received even if the recipient did not pay taxes in that year.

● (2110)

That is the way he won his campaign, by stretching the truth a little bit with just a little bit of the Irish poetic licence, perhaps, or a little bit of the blarney that he spread over the

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great riding of Lincoln. The same old gang is over there, with the odd one left out of the cabinet. Those who dared to question their leader are the odd ones out of the cabinet. Now they are being slapped into committee chairmanship jobs as fast as possible to keep them quiet, but it is the same old gang over there, and they are continuing the same practices which have burdened the Canadian taxpayer for 12 years.

I get the impression that the government cannot grasp the magnitude of the staggering figure it is asking for. In order that it may be more enlightened I am going to use the following example. Let us try to put this into perspective. If from the day that Christ was born a man had spent \$1,000 every day of every month of every year, by the end of this century he would have spent \$730 million. That is all, at just \$1,000 a day.

That would still be almost \$300 million short of \$1 billion. The government is now asking for \$12 billion in a two-clause bill. Surely the government realizes what this is costing the Canadian taxpayer. Surely hon. members opposite realize that to pay off our existing net debt, without adding this one on, would cost \$7,725 per taxpayer. I do not know what this government is thinking by burdening the Canadian taxpayers like this, but hon. members opposite sit over there and smile. They are smug and safe for another four years, but they will be hearing from us over the next four years, and we will be keeping them honest.

An hon. Member: That is impossible.

Mr. McDermid: My colleagues say it is impossible to keep them honest. My colleagues are always right. I bow to their wisdom. They do know of what they speak. Many of them have been here much longer than have I.

Mr. Regan: And will be.

Mr. McDermid: Be careful, sir.

Right now one out of every four tax dollars is used to service our debt. If the Liberals continue to spend money at this rate, who knows what deficits will face our children?

Mr. Regan: Which programs do you want to remove?

Mr. McDermid: In short, this borrowing authority adds substantially to our debt and was really not expected at the start of the year. It will mortgage our future for years to come.

The minister asked which programs to cut. I heard him say that very clearly. He has now buried himself in his letter writing. I want the minister to tell us where he is spending the money first so that we can see if there is anything there to cut. He should come clean with the Canadian people and tell us where he is spending the money.

Mr. McKenzie: You can't cut what you can't see.

Mr. McDermid: My friend from Winnipeg tells me we cannot cut what we cannot see, and that is right.