

debt some day, and they will not be proud of what the Government of Canada has done to them.

The Government tells us that the deficit and its borrowing requirements are not so bad. I would point out that the Government's borrowings and its debt is very serious. The United States has a deficit of 4.7 per cent of its GNP, while our deficit is 6.9 per cent of GNP and rising. It is rising because the economy is declining.

The Government will not generate the revenue that it has anticipated. Furthermore, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) has already initiated a supplementary borrowing Bill when we have not even finished with this Bill. He realizes that he did not tell the Canadian public the truth six weeks ago when he said that the deficit would be down. When he was in committee last week he did not deny that he would have trouble getting the deficit down. But we are faced with a higher deficit in the coming year than we have faced in the past. That is why we are objecting to the Bill. The Government will not tell us all of its intentions for this money or tell us about all the gimmicks it has up its sleeve. It is playing games with the Canadian public, who are getting sick and tired of it.

Mr. Chénier: Wait until the next election. You will be out of here.

Mr. Fennell: I will not be out of here. I am sure that a lot of your colleagues will be out of here.

The Canadian public only has to realize that in 1968 we spent 17.4 per cent of our GNP and last year we spent 25.3 per cent. I will wager that it will go up to 26 per cent next year. The Government is sending us downhill on a rapid slide. Wonderland in Toronto has nothing compared to the slide into the drain upon which the Government is putting us.

The Government has been unfair and untruthful to the Canadian public. Let me illustrate this by quoting some statements made by the Government. One of the best quotes is from the Minister of Finance, who said, "Deficit spending is good for economic growth". The Government has spent throughout the 1970s when we were in good times, but that did not do us any good when the crunch came in the 1980s. The Government's actions have been damaging to the country. It states that there is a deficit because of the positive initiatives of the Liberals. One of the most important factors in the present circumstances is economic mismanagement. The Government does not know where the money is coming from and does not know where it is going. It also said that there is nothing wrong with having a large national debt. It will be the generations of the future which will realize the damage.

History has shown that any country that has experienced a high deficit such as this has had to resort to printing money. That is the only solution for that bankrupt bunch across the way.

The Government keeps telling us that there is nothing wrong with a short-term deficit. A deficit from 1968 to 1984 that has risen by \$162 billion is not a short-term deficit; it is long-term spending.

Time Allocation

Another rather amusing quote from the Government is, "Over the next few years the deficit will fall dramatically". And this quote particularly strikes me, "Relative to other nations, our deficit is not out of line". Based on GNP, the United States will have a deficit of \$1.25 trillion. If the deficit in the United States were at the same level as that of Canada, it would be \$2.5 trillion.

When we compare our debt to that of the United States, it shows that we are in trouble. Yet the Government is putting the clamp on us and saying that we cannot discuss this Bill any longer. According to the Budget, the Government does not need the funds that it is requesting. It has between \$4 billion and \$8 billion in the bank. While it asks for \$29.5 billion, we are told it will spend only \$29 billion. There is something dishonest about the way the Government is dealing with this country and Members of the House.

Mr. Chénier: You can't count.

Mr. Fennell: I hear the yelling from the other side. I understand that.

Mr. Chénier: Nobody is yelling.

Mr. Fennell: They are nervous about the fact we are giving statistics that will hurt those Members. The interest burden which we are forced to carry is now 20 per cent of our total expenditures. This burden has removed any fiscal flexibility that we might have.

There have been no new plans to get the engine growth moving again. There has been nothing. The Government has put us on a downhill slide.

Mr. Chénier: You are repeating yourself.

Mr. Fennell: I will repeat myself many times in order to get the point across that what you have done to this country is serious. Besides its spending program, one of the major costs the Government is placing on the country is a lack of confidence in Canada. We have totally lost the confidence of the rest of the world. Our productivity is at an all time low. While the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Lumley) has worked hard to increase productivity, it cannot be done overnight. The Government is spending the same amount on research and development as it did in 1968, whereas Japan has increased its expenditure threefold.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak to this Bill, but I am very annoyed about having to speak to closure. It should not be permitted in the House, and I hope that this is the last time I am faced with closure in the House.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Cousineau) on a point of order.