

Penner). First, I would like to indicate my support for the Member's comments when he related the matter of the national deficit and debt in Canada and other nations in the world to Bill C-30. The Bill really concerns the International Monetary Fund. We must be concerned about the stability of that fund. Therefore, there is a very substantial connection between the matter of national deficits and debts to the subject-matter of the Bill.

What was even more relevant in the Hon. Member's presentation was his reference to the control of the finances of Government by the Public Service, as opposed to the Government of the day and, indeed, the Parliament of the day. I want to underline some of the sad things the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior pointed out in that connection. He was right to mention the fact that in the past the will of the Government, in terms of debt reduction and deficit reduction, has been thwarted by officers of the Public Service. I think it is right and proper for the people of Canada to know that.

There are illustrations of that from the past and there are illustrations of that at present. The honest effort of the Government of Canada to reduce the amount which is spent by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been placed in jeopardy by some of the specific things the CBC has done. I have seen it in my constituency of Halifax West. However, I could give the House a better example.

In this House of Commons we have a Parliamentary Broadcast Service which is threatened by the officers of the CBC. Those officers intend to change the parliamentary broadcast which is now being watched by Canadians. If that is not an attempt to call undue attention to an honest effort to reduce the amount of money which is spent by the CBC, I do not know what is. It is an attempt to thwart the will of the Government which is representing the will of the people of Canada. It is an attempt to impose the will of the management of the CBC.

I would like to mention another important example to reinforce what the Hon. Member has said. In the Province of Nova Scotia, CN Marine has stopped, as part of its expenditure reduction, the services provided by the Bluenose Ferry between the Province of Nova Scotia and the State of Maine. This will amount to a saving of \$3.4 million. Well, I have a message for CN Marine and Canadian National. If they want to save \$3.4 million, they should not reduce the service provided by the Bluenose Ferry which as my colleague from South West Nova knows, is vital to his area. CN should cut out the advertisements on national television which tell us that Canadian National is a transport company which is in business for Canada. I do not need to be told by Canadian National that it is a transport company in business for Canada, at cost of millions of dollars, when that same organization is cutting out a vital service to Nova Scotians, particularly those in the fishing industry. That is the kind of activity which is designed to thwart the honest desire of the Government of Canada, and the people of Canada, in reducing the amount of the national deficit and debt.

#### *Bretton Woods Agreements Act*

I would like to ask the Hon. Member a question. Has he seen any difference in the Public Service of Canada, or the will of the Public Service, to thwart Parliament and the Government of Canada, notwithstanding the clear demonstration of the people of Canada, who told us in the September election that what they wanted was more responsible control of the financial management of the country? Does he see the Public Service of Canada responding to that clear request from the people of Canada?

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting question. I indicated in my remarks that the deficit was structural and not only cyclical in nature. I believe the same analysis could be applied to the Public Service of Canada. I think there are some very serious structural defects in the Public Service of Canada.

One of the things which has concerned me about the Nielsen Task Force—and Members opposite will be able to get information on this much more readily than I—is whether it is simply looking at the benefits and cost-effectiveness of programs, or if it is going much deeper and looking into the entire structure of the Public Service of Canada to determine, if significant cuts are desired, if there are certain aspects in the manner in which the Public Service conducts itself which would be very effective in the long run.

I would like to offer one suggestion. When the Nielsen Task Force findings are made public, we will find out whether there is any reference to this. What actually goes on in government Departments in the heavily-staffed policy divisions? Have we ever seen one small drop of policy come out of any of them? Usually, policy is much more effectively made by a handful of people in a Minister's office, or within the ranks of a political Party. But, how much workable, useful, applicable policy ever comes out of government Departments with their very large and expensive policy divisions? That is what I had in mind when I spoke about structural defects in the Public Service. I am very hopeful that the Nielsen Task Force will not eliminate or forget to apply its analysis to that.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a comment and an invitation for the Hon. Member.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner). I think he has given us an introduction to the Budget debate which will probably be brought down in April. I think it is very encouraging that he said prosperity is here. I would like to agree with that. I believe the people of Canada on September 4 took a major step in ensuring that prosperity would return to the country.

He also said that we would sweep the deficit under the carpet. I disagree with that. On November 8, \$4.2 billion in cuts was introduced by the Government. The Government has stayed with those cuts. The Government has not deviated from that introduction. The signal that the Government would live within its means was very clear. It is doing that. I dare say, it will exercise further fiscal restraint in reducing the deficit even further in the months and years ahead. We have to get our act under control and live within our means. By doing that, not only will we be able to supply more to needy Canadians, but,