

*Financial Administration Act*

are harming those who cannot look after themselves, those who are about to rely on their pensions for a modest standard of living in the twilight years of their life. It is not just Canada, Mr. Speaker. Other nations have tried, too—deliberately and too energetically, to redistribute wealth. I suggest we have gone so far in that direction that we have smothered the creation of wealth.

What we are dealing with today is a technical move which should remove a lot of the excuses the central agency gives for not being able to control the system. Guideline after guideline and regulation after regulation in the central agency are so permissive you can drive trucks through them. I plead for this House to accept responsibility for financial management and make sure tax dollars are used wisely, efficiently and effectively. But it 'aint going to happen, Sir, unless we as individual Members in this House do it.

I have to compliment most of the people in the federal bureaucracy, Mr. Speaker. The Comptroller General has put in place all the things we asked him to do. He asked for five years and that is coming forward. The new form of the Estimates is coming down and the President of the Treasury Board has requested Members to comment on the new Part IIs. All of this reorganization and proper disclosure of information we hope will allow us to overcome the extravagance we see within Government today. I put a lot of faith in the new form of Estimates and proper disclosure of honest information to hold the system to better account. But none of that is going to happen, none of the work of the federal bureaucracy will come to fruition—and I guess we have spent close to \$200 million on this since I was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts—unless the individual Member who sits in this House representing the Canadian taxpayer changes his attitude and starts to conserve the tax resources of Canada.

The taxes paid by working people represent blood, sweat and tears. They spend the best part of their day earning their wages from which taxes are deducted. Corporations in Canada add to the value of goods. If they do not do it efficiently and effectively, they are not around for very long in this competitive world.

The energy, skill, the thought and the engineering, the professionalism which goes into creating the profits from which we draw taxes, are held in disrepute and disrespect here. Some 65 per cent of Canadians say this place is no longer relevant and they are right. This is taxation without representation. We have a Department of National Revenue which can walk right into an individual's bank account without even asking the person concerned and take money through some kind of power they have developed with the banks. There is fear among the people of this nation that the arbitrary powers of Government are out of control.

It is up to us, Mr. Speaker. If we want to continue to conduct ourselves in the historical pattern of politicians, then I suggest to every Member sitting in this Chamber that democracy is threatened and will die. It is that serious. Let me just read the concern of the Prime Minister back on August 13, 1969. He said:

This year the debate about inflation and the search for ways to combat it have reached a new intensity. Most Canadians—whether in government, business or labour—realize that if inflation continues unchecked they will suffer personally. But some people suffer more than others. Even a modest increase in general price levels causes anguish for pensioners, wage earners with weak bargaining powers, the unemployed, persons on welfare and other who are unable to increase their incomes. Because these persons are often our lowest income earners inflation has serious implications for our goal of achieving an equitable distribution of incomes.

We have chosen an approach to combat inflation which we believe can produce better long-term results for the country and for Canadians. For success, it requires your support, and this is why I am speaking to you tonight.

Our fiscal and monetary policies are the first line of attack. During the past year we have taken necessary steps to place our budget in a surplus position in the 1969-70 fiscal year . . . the first actual surplus in thirteen years. This swing from a deficit of \$575 million last fiscal year to a surplus this year is of great help in fighting inflation in our economy.

Another important step in holding down costs of all governments in Canada was our refusal to turn over larger amounts of money to the provinces. The Federal stand, and the fruitful discussions held with the provinces before they brought in their budgets, has resulted in most provinces making successful efforts to improve or maintain budgetary balance. I hope they keep up the effort.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and myself were in the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates this morning. One of the problems we were asking about was the increase in the transfer payments to the Provinces, out of control spending and the inability of the central agency, the Treasury Board, to show any semblance of control. I happen to know that the Secretary of the Treasury Board is concerned with the looseness which exists within the system, but we politicians—and I am going to disregard political boundaries—of all stripes are the guilty ones. We do not represent our constituents in matters of supply.

Parliament came about because the King bled the people dry through taxes. That is what the Government is doing in this country and I stand here and say: Enough! Let Bill C-96 be the beginning today of a tightening up of our spending and a representation once again of the taxpayer by Members sitting in this House. If we do not do it I do not know how we are going to survive because we have smothered out the wealth-creating abilities of our land. We cannot see a way to compete with the industries that we have been generous enough to complete in the Third World.

● (1140)

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I am going to sit down so that we have maximum time in Committee of the Whole to get through all the amendments we have to deal with.

**Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, it was only one hour ago that I became aware that we were going to debate second reading of Bill C-96. I must admit to the House that I have not had the opportunity to prepare a speech. However, I would like to indicate that almost five years ago when I was elected to this Parliament there were three major problems on my mind that, in my view, had a crisis element to them. The first was the patriation of the Constitution and an amending procedure. The second was the reform of Parliamentary institutions. The third was coming to grips with the growth of Governments in Canada, not only provincial and municipal Governments, but the federal Government.