

that in the United States. Based on a per citizen average, our debt is much higher than theirs.

I have caught sight of your signal, Mr. Speaker, and I will sit down soon. It is interesting that for four years the United States has made every effort possible to turn around its debt situation. That is largely a measure of the campaign which is going on now. My final comment is that Canada must get control of its debt. It must decrease the amount that it is borrowing, or an unnecessary peril will befall all of tomorrow's children of this great and blessed land. They should not have to bear that burden.

**Mr. Ferguson:** Mr. Speaker, I was very impressed with the opening comments of the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) when he stated that we are wanting in almost nothing. Those were his actual words. I agree that this is a great nation with a tremendous future, tremendous human and natural resources, good government, good social programs and a safety net put in place by a Liberal Government. We have a safety net for society for the difficult times brought on by a world recession, one which served us well prior to the recovery. To date it has produced something like 424,000 jobs in Canada.

Could the Member explain why, during the two years prior to the Diefenbaker years, the percentage of debt compared to the GNP was 2 per cent lower than in the Tory years and then dropped off dramatically in the later sixties? Even this year it is only 1 per cent above those Tory years of the late fifties and early sixties.

**Mr. Malone:** Mr. Speaker, neither the past nor past administrations are important. The economy is important and so is how wisely we steward that economy and how well we create jobs. Whatever the Hon. Member might be attempting to project, save the extreme world-wide recession of the 1930s, we have never had an unemployment situation in the country which matches the one we have now. Employment opportunities will be redressed when the private sector of the nation begins to put in place permanent, long-term jobs. That will only take place when we back away from government involvement in the private sector, when there is trust in Revenue Canada, and when the borrowing on the international markets is not competing to such a significant extent to drive interest rates up as to curtail the investments of the private sector and to hold down the opportunities of employment in the country.

I know the Hon. Member from his good constituency of Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Ferguson). I believe he would be one of the first to recognize and admit outside the House that it is time we began to encourage efficiency and permanent employment by a stimulus of the private sector. That will come about, irrespective of what the past may have been, by Canada's addressing itself to a policy which recognizes that to be the engine of our economy and by attaching ourselves to a policy which makes us stronger and more economically independent of any one nation. Until that is done we will not be a leader as Japan and others have been able to be.

### *Borrowing Authority Act*

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment and then ask a question of my hon. friend and colleague. The Hon. Member mentioned that to repay the billions of dollars we are borrowing we are taking \$1 out of every \$3 collected. That is an excellent way to put it. Because of this we are unable to carry out some programs. We are unable to give women between 50 and 65 a decent living and we are allowing them to exist on welfare. This not only prevents us from doing certain things, but it requires the Government to do certain things.

I refer particularly to that excellent railway line between Dinosaur and Stettler which serves scores of farmers in a wonderful grain growing and cattle raising country. There is now talk of closing that railway and leaving those farmers with the enormous expense of having to travel extra miles. This will ruin the lives they have planned for themselves.

If we are to get rid of this borrowing and live within our means does the Hon. Member think we would have to close excellent railway lines such as the one from Dinosaur to Stettler?

**Mr. Malone:** Mr. Speaker, I will go even further than my good friend and neighbour, the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). I will say that the railway line ought to remain open from Dinosaur to Fertile junction. It serves 108 miles of line through 10 very vibrant communities. Should that railway line be abandoned, it will decrease the net income of more than 1,000 permit holders along that line. As their net income is decreased, so is their capacity to pay tax. It will add to their expense because they will then have to make long hauls. Some of those hauls will be in the neighbourhood of 50 to 55 miles from the more central points. When net incomes are decreased and less revenue comes to the Government of Canada the instinct of the Government is to borrow more money. This becomes a perpetual treadmill.

Obviously any railway has to stand on its own merit. There has been a rationalization across the Prairies of many of the old railway lines. I do not argue with that. In my riding there has been abandonment of more lines and miles of railway than in any other riding on the Prairies. In all probability it is a railway line that will become profitable by 1985 on the basis of the new rates, coupled with the new production of grain, which has been increasing at a rate of 40 per cent in the last five years. That amount will double in the next five years largely because of the new development with solonchic soils in that area. I can document the fact on the basis of information from resource people in the area that, without equivocation, it will be a paying railway line that ought to stay in place. I say that it will make money for Canada, which will decrease our need to borrow. It is an excellent idea that the Hon. Member for Bow River put forward, and I appreciate it.

● (1600)

**Mr. Parent:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I misunderstood what the Hon. Member said. We are dealing here with a principle. I believe he said that the Government should get out of the lives of businesses and let them do their work, which is creating jobs