

Waste and Mismanagement

You can never spend more than you have; otherwise you have endless inflation.

He did not mean a word of what he said because at the present time the government is spending \$1 billion per month more than it takes in. The comments by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Buchanan) this afternoon are absolutely meaningless. It can be covered with jam, meringue, honey and all the rest of it but with all his sweet words and sweet talk, the government is spending more than \$1 billion a month more than it takes in. The Prime Minister identifies the problem and indicates that he knows what will happen, but he goes ahead and does it anyway.

The Prime Minister has also said:

I have never been able to accept any discipline except that which I imposed upon myself. . . . I found it unacceptable that others should know better than I what was good for me.

That is the philosophy of an individual. It is not the philosophy that one looks for in a politician—a politician that will not accept discipline. I guess that is why the Prime Minister changed the rules in 1968, so there would be no proper parliamentary control over expenditures. That was one of his first acts as Prime Minister, because he has no use for this House at all. Here is another statement made by the Prime Minister:

Federalism must be welcomed as a valuable tool which permits dynamic parties to plant socialist governments in certain provinces, from which the seed of radicalism has slowly spread.

What on earth does he mean by that? That is a very, very strange statement, and it creates suspicion as to what this man is really up to. The Prime Minister has also said:

Indeed the experience of that superb strategist, Mao Tse-tung, might lead us to conclude that in a vast and heterogeneous country, the possibility of establishing socialist strongholds in certain regions is the very best thing.

Such a move would only create further suspicion. As one of my colleagues said, this is a very deliberate plot to bankrupt this country, this mad Liberal spending that we have.

I would also like to refer to the famous Liberal vanishing act which the Auditor General highlights every year. In speaking before the House of Commons public accounts committee in February, Canada's Auditor General, J.J. Macdonell, said that his department could account for only half of last year's \$47 billion in federal expenditures. Macdonell told the House committee that reports his department receives on government spending are so confusing that it is a big gamble to certify government accounts at the end of the year. We hear the hon. member for Comox-Alberni making statements to the effect that everything is under control. He read out statements to the effect that we would have proper accounting and what have you. There is no proper accounting at all.

Officials from Mr. Macdonell's office complained that the spending estimates contain too many complicated tables when simple written explanations would tell more. They criticized government spending estimates as containing too much distracting detail and not enough information on how much money each program actually costs. The Auditor General's department said that important facts about planned expendi-

tures are virtually impossible for parliamentarians and taxpayers to get their hands on. This is exactly why we presented our motion on February 2, 1978, to have a proper parliamentary system with investigative powers and the power to bring witnesses in under oath. It would mean a sincere effort properly to examine expenditures.

Another example of duplication is the recently appointed National Commission on Inflation to replace the AIB, although some of the staff will be transferred over to the National Commission on Inflation and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. There are three different groups looking into prices, inflation and what have you. I do not know why we need the AIB or the National Commission on Inflation.

I would like to read out to hon. members the objectives of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which has a budget of \$75 million a year and a staff of approximately 2,700 people. Their objective is to promote the integrity and viability of the market system in Canada. One of its subobjectives is to protect and promote the interest of consumers by working toward a fair, safe and efficient marketplace. With a budget of \$75 million and a staff of 2,700 people, why is the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs not investigating supermarkets with their price gouging? They are not living up to their mandate. Why do we need the AIB and the inflation commission? They are just window dressing.

When there is responsible government, it attracts investment. By attracting investment the employment situation looks after itself. The Liberal government likes to talk about the 450,000 jobs they have created. If the private sector could create 450,000 jobs with a Liberal albatross around their neck, imagine what it could do without the albatross. We would be well off in this country. I must emphasize that unemployment is costing us \$8.5 billion a year. If things are so good, it should not be costing \$8.5 billion to cover unemployment. This figure is broken down as follows: \$4.5 billion goes to the Unemployment Insurance Commission; \$2.5 billion is accounted for in lost taxes and \$2 billion is allocated for welfare. Canada has a very serious problem on its hands.

● (1730)

I will give you an example of what can happen with a socialist type of government in power, like the one here in Ottawa, and like the one we had in Manitoba. I have figures here which I have read into the record before. An investment counsellor has gathered some devastating figures of the amount of money which moved out of the province of Manitoba when it had a socialist government in power. That government was the best friend Alberta and the United States ever had. Now that the socialist government is no longer in power, the economy of the province is starting to turn around. The province cannot do it alone. The government is doing a remarkable job since it has taken over, but it still has the Liberal albatross from Ottawa around its neck.