

Supply

money out of RRSPs to that extent and put it into new homes? Yes, there has been a flurry of activity as the member pointed out. How many more homes would have been built had the government been prepared to put that money into social housing in every province in Canada? That kind of program is needed from one end of this great country to the other. A national program like that could have helped tie Canada together.

There are a couple of things the government could have done. It could have done something to improve our economy and it desperately needs it. It could have done things to help pull Canada together and Canada desperately needs that. The government is following the agenda it came into office with in 1984. It has failed Canada for eight years. It is time to let someone else take over the reins of government, someone dedicated to the idea of building a real Canada. Canadians are proud of Canada now, but we could be even prouder. There is more we can do for ourselves and more that could be done. We could improve our economy. We could improve our country and make Canada a much better country in which to live.

I am proud of it now and pleased to be here. I am very happy to be a Canadian, but I am disappointed at what we have been able to do for ourselves with this Tory government that has been in office some eight years. Goodness knows just what bad news it is holding back to present us with later. I hope this government does not get re-elected whenever the next election is because Canadians cannot afford this kind of government much longer.

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, I think it has probably been a long time since this House has heard such a disjointed and convoluted bit of rhetoric. The member has talked about the inadequacies of the federal government's proposals. He suggested we spend money on social housing and creating jobs through public employment projects such as perhaps a national highway system. He has talked at length about ways the government should be spending more money, giving money to lower income people. He did not address where the money was coming from.

An hon. member: Yes, he did.

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): He did not talk about the possibility of raising taxes for the bulk of Canadian taxpayers who really contribute the funds. He criticized reducing tax rates for small businesses without addressing the negative impact it would have on small business and job creation if we do not reduce tax levels.

• (2040)

He talked about the dangers of the debt and the deficit on a provincial basis. He spoke quite rightly about debt as being a disease that cripples and maims the abilities of governments to help people. On the federal level he talked about the deficit as being poor social policy because the existence of a deficit, necessarily by its very existence, is transferring wealth from the lower income people to the higher income people.

Do you know something, Madam Speaker? He is right. He is absolutely right because when we run a deficit the people who finance the deficit are generally those who have the ability to purchase Treasury bills, Government of Canada bonds and savings bonds. He is absolutely right. I agree with him.

When we run a deficit we are transferring money from all the single mothers, from all the elderly people and from all the disadvantaged taxpayers in this country. We are taking their tax dollars and putting them in a form of income in the bank accounts of the higher income earners. Is that not right? That is what he said.

The member showed a great deal of wisdom and insight in saying that. That is exactly why the mandate of the government has been to cut back spending, to reduce the deficit and to try to get a handle on this immoral flow of wealth from poor to rich. Surely if he sticks by his principles—and he is a man of the New Democratic Party people and constituency—he will have to support the government's financial and fiscal thrust.

I want to know what argument the member puts forward for attacking the government's agenda of trying to reduce our deficit financing and stop transferring money into the bank accounts of the higher income earners.

Mr. Stupich: Madam Speaker, I wish we had more time to go on with this and that the member would stay in the House. Perhaps he would learn something.