

tive to his entire life span are becoming shorter and shorter, which puts great weight on his responsibility during his productive years.

I think government expenditures have been allowed to increase at an unjustifiable rate. For every man, woman and child in this country this federal expenditure is now at a rate of \$1,000. The government says that this is partly due to statutory items over which it has no control. Who, may I ask, introduced the statutes, Mr. Speaker? The government is saying, in effect, either that it did not care, or it could not see the effect of the legislation it forced down the throat of parliament, in some cases, and passed last year.

Mr. Hales: They were like that stable boy.

Mr. MacLean: I also think the growth of the civil service is completely out of reality. I believe, of course, in an efficient civil service. I am not saying there should be no growth but that I think the rate of growth should be controlled so we do not continue to be the one country in the western world with the highest percentage of GNP going to government expenditure. If that is our goal, to be the most expensively governed country in the western world, then we have achieved it. But I doubt very much that one of Canada's real national goals, so far as the average person is concerned, is to have the biggest, most expensive and most grandiose government in the world.

The effects of this run away rate of acceleration in government expenditure cannot help but bring with it inflation. Indeed, it is one of the chief causes, if not the chief cause, of this induced inflation about which I have been talking. What effect does this have on the average citizen? For example, the expenditures of this government have doubled in the last eight years. If they double every eight years over the next 48 years, then the annual budget will be \$1,408 billion.

What effect will this have on the young person now entering the work force and contributing relatively good dollars to the Canada Pension Plan? At the age of 66 he is supposed to get the benefit of 48 years' work. Presumably if this trend is allowed to continue, the annual budget is going to be, as I say, \$1,408 billion, which will mean that the Canadian dollar at that time, compared with today's dollar, will be worth about three cents.

So is it fair to expect people to save good money now, even through a very meritorious scheme, which will be almost worthless when the money is repaid? The same argument applies to all kinds of savings. I think sooner or later—and sooner rather than later—the government is going to realize that it will not be able to borrow money from the general public, because people will not lend money to a government only to have the money repaid years later in dollars that have become almost worthless in the meantime. So we are not very far from the time when, in order to get anyone to buy government bonds, the government will have to guarantee an escalation in the face value of the bond so that it will be redeemed at the same purchasing power the investment had when the bond was first purchased.

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● (1550)

What does that do? If that trend continues you have an explosive acceleration in the cost of carrying the national debt. That is happening now due to the increase in the interest rates. It does not take much of a mathematician to realize that it costs three times as much to carry the national debt at 9 per cent as it did at 3 per cent. This adds to the deficits, subtracts from the amount of money that is available to a government for constructive use, and cheats the person who lent his money to the government to save for his old age, because he gets paid back in dollars of deflated value. It has always been so, and the government should realize that it cannot make this country prosperous, that it cannot bring about a satisfactory economic situation by debauching our economic system and debasing our currency.

I believe my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker, and so I will try to conclude. There are other trends that are equally deplorable. One is the unnecessary and accelerated urban growth, and the depopulation of rural Canada. I would like to talk about that for a long time, but I will not on this occasion. Then, there is the worship of growth. I think that an economy which does not operate satisfactorily unless it is being artificially stimulated is sick. An economy that is sound should be able to do what it is supposed to do in a state of equilibrium.

I said that I may sound like a prophet of doom, Mr. Speaker. I am not; I am an optimist. I believe this is a country with a great future. However, I believe that there are certain dangers that we must foresee and avoid. If we do then there is a great future for this country, but in some cases time is running out.

Mr. William Rompkey (Grand-Falls-White Bay-Labrador): On rising to take part in this debate, Mr. Speaker, first may I add my congratulations to those of the hon. members who preceded me, offered to the Governor General and Madame Léger on their appointment. I wish them success and happiness, and I hope to welcome them to the province of Newfoundland whenever they can find time to visit there. I understand they will be visiting with us to take part in our celebrations at the end of this month and the beginning of April. I can assure them that they will be most welcome indeed.

May I say also how glad I was to see a keynote in the speeches that were made, moving and seconding the Address in Reply, one which I hope will be followed in this debate and throughout the continuation of this parliament, namely, that in Canada we cannot be isolationist or parochial, that we must learn more about other countries if we are to solve the problems that beset us today because certainly the majority of our problems are international in origin and scope. It is only by learning more about each other, and working more closely together, that we will be able to solve them.

It is indeed a pleasure and honour for me, Mr. Speaker, to speak in this throne speech debate on behalf of the people of Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador. This is a large, far-flung riding, one of the largest in Canada. It stretches over about 130,000 square miles from the inland paper town of Grand Falls, and the nearby town of Windsor, built around the great Price Paper Mill. This is a bustling,