

in order to pay the deficit. The Government is still not able to cope, not even with the Minister of Finance's statement.

Mr. Bradley: Because you left it too long.

Mr. Hopkins: The Government is still increasing taxes by 52 per cent for the average Canadian.

Mr. Ravis: Who got us in this mess?

Mr. Hopkins: The Hon. Member is self-righteous again. If you are in a mess, the Government is continuing the mess because it is continuing to increase the debt year after year.

Mr. Bradley: Not true.

Mr. Hopkins: Do not start the nonsense that you are pure over there. Canadians do not believe that.

Mr. Ravis: We are not pure.

Mr. Hopkins: The Tories are grappling with something they say they are succeeding at, but they are not succeeding at it. They might as well admit it. The only alternative is to say, "We are going to increase taxes by 52 per cent to 53 per cent for the average individual, and we are going to lower taxes for the wealthy people and lower taxes for large business corporations. Then we will give you tax reform just before the election".

The debt has been added to in the years since the Government has been in power as a result of mismanagement. It has been selling off assets owned by Canadians. The Tories say that the Government is making great strides. Let us be honest about this and say that the present Government is adding to the debt by leaps and bounds and it is not all interest. Do not try to tell us that.

[Translation]

Mr. Hudon: Mr. Speaker, I am not likely to forget there are Liberals and Conservatives here in the House, considering what we have just heard. We have been hearing the most incredible nonsense. First of all, the Hon. Member opposite doesn't know what he is talking about. When he says we are going to reduce the deficit by \$28 million, I think this should be \$21.3, and we are talking about billions, and we are talking about \$7 billion which will go directly to servicing the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague would tell us what party let Canadians dream about a telescope for so long, since he mentioned the telescope a while ago. I think we should not forget which political party skewed reality for Canadians by giving them the illusion that all our society needed was Canada Works projects. People would work 26 weeks and draw unemployment insurance for 52 weeks. Which political Party set up Petro-Canada? Which Party introduced the National Energy Program? Which Party brought up the subject of sports lotteries? Remember all that? Sport Select and the whole bit? Which Party established FIRA? Which Party gave us the F-18? Which Party increased the tax on gas by four times what we had asked for in the Budget brought down by the Conservative Government that was in power for eight months? Which Party put a ceiling on indexation of Old

Age Pensions at the beginning of the eighties? Which Party let interest rates rise to 20 per cent?

I think it takes unconscionable nerve to tell the House we are increasing the deficit. Under the Liberals, Mr. Speaker, and I think they were in power in 1967-68, the operating deficit was \$712 million, and by 1984, it had grown to \$38.3 billion. Today, Mr. Speaker, the deficit is \$29 billion. We brought the deficit below \$30 billion. You can hardly expect Canadians to believe they got a raw deal in September 1984 and that we increased the deficit.

I just wanted to say that under the Liberals, between 1967 and 1984, public spending as accounted for in the various Budgets increased not by 100 per cent, not by 200 per cent but by 862 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member just said we increased the deficit, a deficit that is now below \$30 billion. Under the Liberals, in 1984, the last year they were in power, it was \$38.3 billion. I fail to see his point.

● (1250)

[English]

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, I have certainly got them going on this one. It is quite obvious that Members opposite are very anxious to placate themselves and to try to tell the public what a tremendous job they are doing. The Hon. Member says the Government has reduced the deficit by \$30 billion. The Hon. Member for Kitchener just finished saying that the deficit for 1987-88 alone would be \$29.3 billion. That is being added to the national deficit.

Mr. Bradley: The national debt.

Mr. Hopkins: Sure, the national debt. How can one member rise to say it is being reduced by \$30 billion and another member rise to say it is going up by only \$29.3 billion? They do not really agree among themselves over there.

Mr. Hudon: Speak about the telescope, it's better.

Mr. Hopkins: The Hon. Member mentioned the telescope which is world famous and serves not only our own nation but many others. It has put us in the forefront of technology. The Hon. Member asked what Government created that. That was originally started on a smaller scale by the Diefenbaker Government, and the large telescope was built by a Liberal Government. There was a great plea a while ago for total unity between Liberals and Conservatives. I must say that Mr. Diefenbaker, whom I knew very well and with whom I got along very well, was the one who started it but, like always, anything Tories start the Liberals have to finish. We operate the large telescope for \$1.1 million annually. At the same time, we did not turn around and waste \$40 million somewhere else on a prison in our Prime Minister's riding as the Government of the Member. I just got finished saying that if the Government really wanted to save money it could have run that great telescope for 30 years with what the Prime Minister wasted in one fell swoop.