

In various debates in the House and in committee, we have heard how the Government breached the Constitution of Canada by issuing money to itself through the use of special Governor General Warrants which, in my submission, it had no proper right to do. I am supported in my opinion by such eminent scholars as Senator Forsey who has expressed his views before a Senate committee. I will not bore Hon. Members opposite by reading his testimony again. However, this is a clear indication of a shocking disregard for constitutional practice and constitutional obligation, and one that the Government should be apologizing for rather than carrying on the way it does.

Regarding the business of supply, the Government has been late at every turn. It has failed to consult Parliament as it is obligated to do under the Constitution. It has dealt itself money which it had no right under the Constitution to take, in my view, and it has generally fumbled and bumbled the business of supply in its manner of dealing with the House.

Now we turn to the second major item, the Budget. It hardly seems necessary for me to explain the fumbling and bumbling that went on with the Budget. We all know about the incredible Budget leak. The whole Budget got leaked in advance of Budget night, something unprecedented in Canada. There have been lots of Budgets over the last 22 years, heaven knows, but nothing like this has ever happened. The whole Budget was blown the night before.

We have witnessed the really rather shameful procedure whereby the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) have tried to blame the Opposition for the failure of the Government to present its Budget properly before the House the night before it was supposed to be presented. I have explained on previous occasions to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and other Hon. Members opposite how it is that the rules of the House do not provide for consultation with the Opposition in these matters. It is not a matter of asking the Opposition for authority. That is a specious argument put forward by the Ministers in order to evade their responsibility to the House and to the country. Their responsibility was to come clean with the Budget in the House, not to ask the

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Opposition for consent to do that. They did not need our consent to do that. They are the masters in this House. We are in Opposition and do not have a majority, much to the regret to the majority of Canadians, I might add.

Beside the fact that the Budget was leaked so badly, there has been a rather shameful cover-up on the question of how much the Government knew when the Budget was ultimately presented in the House on April 27. The evasive answers we have been given by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), by the Deputy Prime Minister and by the Minister of Justice have led to a loss of confidence in the Government on the part of Canadians and loss of confidence in the ability of its Ministers to look after the financial affairs of Canada. This evasion has once again surrounded one of the principle financial instruments of Government, the Budget.

I could go on to deal with the merits of the Budget, but frankly, it would be a short speech were I discussing its merits. There are so many demerits in the Budget that those are the ones that require attention. There has been a shocking series of tax increases and cuts in areas of questionable appropriateness.

I would like to turn to the Main Estimates. The Government makes a great thing of its cuts and the Minister of Finance keeps telling us how it is that he will balance the Budget and will suddenly stop these huge deficit increases that have been plaguing us for so long, according to the Minister. I would like to read from the statement made by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) when he introduced the Main Estimates in the House on April 28, as recorded at page 1078 of *Hansard*:

The Government's updated fiscal plan provides for total budgetary expenditures of \$142.9 billion in fiscal year 1989-1990, a 7.4 per cent increase over the forecast for the past fiscal year.

Here we talk about government restraint. The Government is constantly complaining in this House that it cannot do this and it cannot do that because of fiscal—

• (1610)

**An Hon. Member:** What about that intervention we just heard?

**Mr. Milliken:** I am sorry, if the New Democratic Party Members wish to participate in the debate I am sure the contributions they are making are typical of what we