

Government Orders

insensitivity of a government that is zealous in this bill after it made a virtue of not acting to help the unemployed or speed the recovery.

On the contrary, this anger is likely to bring people together, whether they are on the right or on the left, because unemployment and uncertainty affect them regardless of party label.

This editorial reflects pretty well the feelings of those who took part in that demonstration. How many times have we in the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition asked the government to present an infrastructure project? It answers that it cannot act because it lacks the necessary funds. But when it comes to crushing the unemployed we saw the insensitivity of the Minister of Employment and Immigration today. When he was asked how much it cost to hire 100 more investigators in 1992 he replied: "I don't know. It's not important". The important thing for him is that hiring these additional investigators saved the unemployment insurance system \$200 million. This \$200 million does not have a human face; he did not care about the human side. The government has always neglected to put people first.

[English]

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, needless to say in standing to oppose Bill C-98, I am standing to oppose the failure of this administration to deal effectively with the major responsibility that it has and that is to deal responsibly with the tax revenues in this country. This bill is an admission of that failure.

This year's deficit is over \$7 billion higher than was projected. Next year the deficit is projected to be about \$32.6 billion which is twice the amount that was projected last year. If we look at the interest payments alone over the next couple of years we are looking at over \$40 billion in interest payments on the debt alone.

That has to be an admission of failure. The government is broke. It is out of money. It has to come back to the House for approval to borrow more money to continue to do its job and do it inadequately.

We are basically being asked to write a rubber cheque. I think the members on this side of the House find that particularly problematic. The fact that the government has to come to the House and extend its borrowing

authority through this bill is an admission of the failure of the last nine years of its administration.

Actually it goes back even more. Let us not blame it all on this government. When it came into power in 1984 it was already dealing with a deficit that was spiralling out of control because of the fiscal mismanagement of its predecessor which was the Liberal government of that time. It had ballooned the deficit to I believe some \$179 billion in 1979-80.

Unfortunately, rather than dealing with the deficit and bringing that deficit down to manageable levels, it has taken that debt and more than doubled it from \$179 billion to today where we have an accumulated debt of over \$400 billion facing Canadians. It is an admission of failure.

I can recall when the Prime Minister was first elected some nine years ago. In his first speech to the House of Commons he made the comment: "Give us 20 years and you will not recognize this country". We have only had nine years and looking around we already do not recognize the Canada we have today compared to the Canada we had before this government came into power.

It has been nine years of fiscal mismanagement, nine years of misdirected priorities, nine years of economic failure. The Canadian people are tired of the misplaced directions this government has led this nation, all the while touting itself as a responsible financial manager.

This is nothing if not a legacy of failure. It has continued to follow the divine rule of supply side management, the trickle down theory, where if we loosen up the tax policies for those at the top echelons of society, the wealthy individuals, the large corporations, if we loosen up the purse strings and allow them to keep more of their revenue by reducing their tax structure then they will be able to blossom economically and the rest of the country will follow along in suit. That is known as the trickle down theory. It has not worked.

I think I speak on behalf of all Canadians when I say that Canadians have been trickled on enough and are tired of the policies of this administration. They are tired of the Reaganomics this government has practised over the past nine years. Look at our neighbours to the south. We have had a change in the political winds. President Clinton has recognized full well that there needs to be a substantial change in the economic policies and priorities