

*Borrowing Authority*

I want to reiterate a question put by the Hon. Member for Northumberland (Mrs. Stewart). The Prime Minister used to say that he was in favour of increasing foreign aid. I want to quote what he said to the United Nations General Assembly. He went there on September 29, two days before he went to the Governor General asking for the writ of election. This is what the Prime Minister told the world in his speech: "Increased development assistance, especially to the poorest countries, is another imperative. Canada has just completed a review of its official development assistance policy. We have reset our bearings to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the help we give to recognize the special role of women in development and to concentrate on the poorest people in the poorest countries".

**Ms. Copps:** Another lie.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Canadians used to be proud of our contributions around the globe. We used to pride ourselves in being citizens of the world. We used to pride ourselves in being open to those members of the human condition who are not as fortunate as we are. In the best traditions of Mr. Pearson, Liberal philosophy has encouraged us to reach out to those in other countries who are less fortunate. Now in this Budget they are slashing foreign aid. They are leading our country and our citizens to turn our backs on the global human condition. We are turning our back on world poverty and hunger. As a Canadian, I want to say frankly to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the country that I am totally ashamed. Our Prime Minister has lied to the world.

• (1530)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** This is a Budget of deception. The greatest hypocrisy, the greatest deception of all is what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) now says about the deficit and the public debt. It is a completely different story from what he said before. Before and during the election the Tories said there was no problem with the deficit or with the debt. Now the Minister wants Canadians to believe that the fiscal problems suddenly appeared after the election. That is absolute nonsense. Interest rates did not begin to rise only last week or a month or two ago. The Prime

Minister and the Minister of Finance knew the debt picture during the campaign. They knew the deficit picture during the campaign. They knew that interest rates were running at 11 per cent or 12 per cent during the campaign. They deliberately misled Canadians. They did not tell the truth to the people of this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Tories played at the politics of deceit. This is a Budget of broken promises, a Budget of deception. It is also a Budget of fiscal mismanagement.

[*Translation*]

On November 22, the very next day following the election, the Government suddenly realized that he was faced with a deficit, a huge deficit of its own making. The Government had created it during its first term. In just four years, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance had doubled the debt which Canada had accumulated since the beginning of Confederation. In less than five years, they had doubled the debt accumulated for over 120 years. The national debt increased from \$170 billion in 1984 to \$330 billion today. It will reach at least \$440 billion by 1993-94. I say "at least", because on the basis of the Finance Minister is past forecast which have always been so far off target, we just could not rely too much on his forecasts for the forthcoming years. In 1994, therefore, on the basis of the Finance Minister's own figures, our national debt will have increased to \$440 billion in ten years. In only ten years, this Tory Government will have tripled the national debt.

Even if the Minister of Finance claims that he has tamed the deficit, the other Members of this House and I understand what figures mean when we see them. We understand from the Budget papers that the deficit amounted to \$28 billion in 1987, \$29 billion in 1988, and that it will amount to \$30.5 billion in 1989. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that when an amount goes from \$28 billion to \$30.5 billion, this represents an increase. I have never seen an amount decrease from 28 to 30. The Minister increased the deficit by \$2.5 billion compared with two years ago. He did not reduce the deficit by \$5 billion as he claims he did. Some day this Government will have to come clean and tell things as they are and not as it imagines them to be.