

tunity and we are absolutely delighted that we received such a strong national mandate for change. Canadians from all regions and from all groups expressed through their votes the belief that our country could and indeed had to do better.

I represent a western riding and therefore must travel extensively. I have talked to people in airports as well as to my constituents and have heard nothing but positive support for the direction in which the Government is heading. While I have received some correspondence at my office expressing some concern about individual cuts in spending or about programs that have been affected, most individuals realize that despite their concern, the Government had to control its spending and get its house in order. While these people may have asked for a review of their individual case, they essentially agree with the objectives of the Government.

The fact is that we have support for our policies. I believe that that is borne out by opinion polls, much to the dismay of our friends on the opposite side of the House. They are aware that Canadians acknowledge our progress and that we have their confidence. Canadians voted for a change in policies and in the approach of Government to the making of policy. This motion today is trying to tell us to go back to the old ways, the old ways of a government that had been spending money like a drunken sailor, spending it on a political basis aimed at ridings held by Liberal Members. One of my colleagues mentioned that the way to attack problems by the former government was to set up commissions so its friends could be well looked after, travel the world at taxpayers' expense and live, I think the words were, "reasonably comfortably". And what about the probe into the Gimli airplane case—

● (1700)

Mr. Crosbie: The gimme case.

An Hon. Member: The Gimli gimmick.

Mr. Dorin: Yes, the Gimli gimmick. We are told that over \$1 million has been spent, to find out what? The trip resulted in some fairly interesting information. What was that information? For instance, the Israeli airline decided to check levels manually on all its 767s before and after fueling. It is incredible that we would have to spend \$1 million to find that out.

Mr. Crosbie: Just by a dip stick.

Mr. Dorin: And then we have Thumper Macdonald at \$800 a day. I understand the counsel to this commission, a former provincial Liberal candidate in Manitoba, suggested that he was making about \$800 a day. Everybody has basically acknowledged that he was dragging it out because he had a good thing going.

Mr. Crosbie: They all did.

Mr. Dorin: This nation is seriously in debt, Mr. Speaker. Business confidence has ebbed. Foreign investors have been scared off and unemployment is painfully high. As soon as the election was called, everyone knew what was going to happen. People did not have to wait. People knew the Liberal govern-

Supply

ment was going to be turfed out. In the third quarter, we had a dramatic 8 per cent increase in our GNP. Just the fact that the election was called inspired confidence in a new government that everyone knew was going to be elected.

The Government can neither wish nor legislate economic growth and meaningful job opportunities into being. The way must be made clear for the private sector to become confident, to flourish, to invest, and thus to create jobs. The Government must move step by step to remove a wide range of obstacles to growth and new jobs. The private sector must be provided with a stable and comprehensive policy environment. The first order of business is to take action on the deficit. The mounting federal debt has become the single most powerful obstacle to growth and private sector job creation. It has been said that the greatest financial invention was compound interest. From an investment point of view, this may be true, but there is another side to compound interest, that seen by the debtor. The federal Government, unfortunately, has fallen into massive indebtedness that now feeds on itself. New interest charges generate new borrowings, which lead to more and more interest charges, an accelerating treadmill of debt.

Even with relatively favourable assumptions about interest rates and continuing economic growth, the deficit in future years was projected to remain in the range of \$34 to \$38 billion. On the one hand it was clear that we would not just grow our way out of the deficit problem. We could not spend our way out. In fact, we would be getting into an even greater debt problem unless we took action. The public debt, if left unchecked, would reach a staggering total of \$410 billion by the end of this decade, the equivalent of \$54,000 for every Canadian family. Each year we are borrowing more and more money just to pay the interest on past debts. In so doing, we are imposing a crippling tax burden on future generations.

When, as is currently the case, more than \$1 out of every \$3 of tax revenue is used to pay the interest on the national debt, then it is clear we are not only compounding past debts, we are compromising the future. The accumulating debt threatens the creation of permanent jobs for unemployed Canadians today and for our children in the years to come, and it does so in a number of different ways. It puts upward pressure on interest rates by raising the expectations of future inflation and by competing for private savings. It limits the Government's ability to meet priority economic and social needs. It symbolizes a state of economic mismanagement that undermines confidence and threatens the job-creating private investment that Canada needs.

That is why, despite the limited time available, the Government had to make a number of tough decisions which were announced on November 8 as part of the economic statement, decisions to reduce expenditures and to increase revenue recovery as a first step in controlling the deficit. As a result of these measures, the projected deficit for 1985-86 has been brought down to \$34.9 billion from the projected \$37.1 billion. Those figures tell us that much more needs to be done. Clearly, this will not be an easy or a painless task. Some pain, as mentioned