

Borrowing Authority Act

over the course of the year. The deficit this year is to be around \$12 billion. What that means is that this government has put us into the ridiculous position of its spending \$1 billion a month more than what it takes in in revenue. You could not possibly become any more irresponsible.

This year's deficit is equal to \$473 per capita or \$1,282 per taxpayer, or \$30.7 million a day. These figures are probably a little out of date and probably have gone up considerably since this government took office in February.

In 1978-79 the government had a deficit of \$12.1 billion, more than total spending the year before the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) came to office. There were deficits in ten of the 11 Trudeau years.

When an individual citizen, a businessman or a government spends more than they receive in revenue they must borrow money to pay debts. The government's debts grow year by year when the financial accounts continue to show a deficit. There are two commonly used definitions of government debt. While net debt is the more frequently used, either is correct as long as the user indicates which definition he is using.

The gross national debt figure includes all liabilities incurred by the government, including bonds, treasury bills, accounts payable, accrued salaries and future pension fund obligations. As of March 31, 1979, the gross national debt was almost \$98 billion, \$4,145 per capita or almost \$12,000 per taxpayer a year. Roughly, that breaks down to \$1,000 per month, and rising, for each taxpayer in Canada. They can think about that, Mr. Speaker. There were many people who thought in the last election that they were going to get cheap gas and so on by returning this government but I can assure them nothing is going to come cheap. It is costing them \$1,000 a month to pay for this huge debt with money they do not have.

The net debt figure is obtained by subtracting assets from the gross national debt. On March 31, 1979, the net debt was over \$55 billion, \$2,361 per capita or \$6,371 per taxpayer. The net debt under Liberal governments over the last 11 to 12 years has increased by 231 per cent and, of course, this will be increasing dramatically because they have only been back in power for a short period, since March 4. They really have not had an opportunity to get going yet, but watch out, they are just getting warmed up!

Interest on the public debt will be about \$8.5 billion this year and \$10.2 billion next year. Twenty-two cents out of every tax dollar is used to pay interest on the debt. Interest on the public debt costs \$1 million per hour. The annual cost is \$356 per capita and \$964 per taxpayer.

Any interested taxpayer can read my speech and some other excellent addresses that will be following this afternoon on these figures, they can sit down and analyse them and just study what this government is costing them. They will then realize that nothing is going to be cheap with this government. They are going to be paying through the nose for all time to come.

I want to congratulate the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro), who has dug up some very interesting figures on what the deficit is costing every Canadian. The net debt per capita of this country is almost \$2,400. Every man, woman and child in this country owes and will have to meet a debt charge of, to be exact, \$2,360 in 1979. We do not have the 1980 figures yet. This is a matter which causes us grave concern and alarm. I refer not only to this Parliament but also to the people of Canada.

In the last government under the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), Mr. Speaker, corrective measures were taken and, unfortunately, they have all been dropped by this Liberal government. The former president of the Treasury Board, the hon. member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens), has projected that without the realistic budgetary moves proposed by the former minister of finance, the hon. member for St. John's West, the federal deficit in 1984 would be \$18 billion. For fiscal 1980 the estimated deficit is \$11.8 billion, without the budgetary measures contained in the Crosbie budget. With the measures the deficit would have been held to \$11.25 billion.

We were off in the right direction with starting to cut back on some of the uncontrolled spending. Since last July the Progressive Conservative government had saved one-half billion dollars. Even under the Crosbie budget the public debt would have grown by 22.6 per cent in the next four years. The deficit would not have dipped below \$9 billion by 1984.

The cumulative effect is even more alarming. Without the Crosbie budget the federal deficit will exceed \$27 billion between 1980 and 1984. The four-year accumulated deficit represents an addition on the net debt of Canada which, even with the Crosbie budget's restraint measures, will rise from \$55.8 billion in 1979 to \$105.6 billion in 1984. That is almost doubling, Mr. Speaker, so you can see the dangerous path that successive Liberal governments have this country on. Without the Progressive Conservative budget the net debt would have reached \$133 billion by 1984, more than 25 per cent over the forecast level.

Unfortunately, that budget was defeated and now we are back to the old Liberal way of doing things. We are removing any and all controls, and this is confirmed each year when we receive the report of the Auditor General.

Hon. members opposite ask many questions of us on this side. They ask what social programs we would cut back. That statement is becoming very outdated. It tries to give the Canadian people the impression that the only thing on which we spend money is social programs. That is absolute nonsense. There are many areas where we could cut back on federal government spending. One of the things that the Clark government had planned to do was to implement all the recommendations in the Auditor General's report and the Lambert commission report, both of which have always highlighted the fact that they cannot find out where half the money is going, that there is no control. They have said that repeatedly in all their reports.