

Financial Administration Act

6. While a number of proposals have been made and considered—for example, to publish in additional languages or to add additional kinds of information—there are no current plans to expand the distribution, size, or editorial content of the magazine, except that it was from the beginning and still is the intention to involve provincial governments to a greater extent in the preparation of material, as its format and general content become established.

[Translation]

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if question No. 363 could be made an order for return, that return would be tabled immediately.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Question No. 363—**Mr. Howie:**

What progress is being made with the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs presented to the House July 7, 1976 in its report on child abuse and neglect?

Return tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL

The House resumed from, Thursday, March 9, consideration of the motion of Mr. Buchanan (for the President of the Treasury Board) that Bill C-10, to amend the Financial Administration Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today to participate in the debate on Bill C-10 which has been referred to as the comptroller general's bill. I was very interested in some of the statements that have been made by government speakers. In fact when the parliamentary secretary made the introductory statement in place of the minister, he mentioned that there had been considerable debate and urged us to speed up the passage of this bill because of the importance of establishing the office of comptroller general and finding someone who would take that position. We are getting used to this particular type of introduction because in so many cases, after many months of hesitation and delay, the government moves in with a bill and

[Mr. Horner.]

then tells us it wants it pushed through immediately because it is an extremely important matter.

I wish somehow ministers would be constrained to look at the situation and decide whether or not they themselves might not be responsible for the delays, because in many cases it is a matter of priorities in government business and a matter of strategy to try to get the matter through without the opposition catching on and having an opportunity to debate it to any degree. I am happy today at the opportunity to take part in this debate.

It was about three years ago, when speaking in the House on a government tax bill, that I said the government was spending money like the proverbial bunch of drunken sailors. Of course I made the appropriate apologies to the sailors at that time. As I recall, I was referring to the way in which this administration was mishandling public funds, and I gave examples of how the Trudeau administration was engaged in a mad spending spree at the expense of the taxpayers of the nation.

Last year, the Auditor General of Canada stated that this government had lost, or was close to losing, effective control of the public purse. One of his major recommendations was that the government appoint a comptroller general. In a few moments I want to deal with this specific proposal, but before getting to that I want to make a few comments on the reasons for our Auditor General's concern about the spending habits of this government.

If we were to get to the heart of the problem, we could see that the main reason for the disastrous state of our nation's economy is in the philosophy of the individuals in charge. I would submit that whatever ethics the Liberal party had had in the past, whatever standards or principles guided the conduct of members of that party previously, they have long since been abandoned by the government, and political morality and personal ethics have been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.

The answer to every problem for this government, it seems to me, is to spend. The philosophy of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is that the resources of our citizens are inexhaustible, that big government is an end in itself, that big is good, bureaucratic is better, and bungling is best.

One of the best analyses of the Prime Minister's philosophy I have come across is found in the book by Philip Bom entitled, "Trudeau's Canada—Truth and Consequences". The author of the book gives a concise cogent analysis of the Prime Minister, and I urge all government supporters to take note they cannot pass this analysis off as hate literature or the babblings of a right wing radical. It appears that this is a scholarly analysis and, what is more, I believe that basically it is the truth.

● (1222)

The author states that:

Trudeau has not blindly applied Marxist principles—

Meaning that he has applied them, but not blindly.

—or slavishly followed Maoist strategy and tactics . . .