

In their analysis of the Government's economic position, economists say that it will "have a negative impact on consumer spending by next year, reducing chances for the strong consumer-led recovery the Government is counting on".

On a fiscal year basis, the new tax measures give consumers a \$75 million gain this year but take back \$365 million and \$1.3 billion respectively in the following three years. Canadians needed an across the board decrease in federal sales tax or a shifting forward of next year's anticipated income tax refunds to aid consumers and help the recovery through consumer spending.

The Government has repeatedly demonstrated that it is incompetent, untrustworthy and bankrupt of ideas to effectively govern this nation. It has undermined confidence in the future of Canada and broken down the spirit of co-operation and entrepreneurship that has built this country. The Government has betrayed historic liberalism in favour of a Government-dominated and socialistic controlled society, giving themselves the right to intervene in every facet of society.

The Government has misled Canadians on oil prices, interest rates, job creation, megaprojects, property rights and tax reform, only to mention a few. This so-called Liberal Party has been in power so long that it has lost touch with democracy while muzzling Parliament, changing the law through regulations and Orders in Council and hiding behind Crown corporations and partisan faceless bureaucrats.

The Government's record speaks for itself. There are over two million unemployed and investment has been driven out of the country. Over \$10 billion left the country in 1981 because Canadians moved their money to a more receptive investment climate. This money could have created at least 400,000 new jobs in the private sector.

Economic performance in Canada has been dismal. Canada's over-all economic performance now ranks fortieth behind such countries as Ecuador, Taiwan, Burma, Cyprus, Panama and Algeria. The OECD ranks Canada twenty-fourth and last among all the major industrialized nations in the world. What is the Liberal answer to this? It appoints Donald Macdonald at \$800 to \$900 per day plus expenses to produce a report at least two years after his appointment.

In November, 1981, the then Minister of Finance predicted an \$11 billion deficit. It is now over \$30 billion and climbing. The Auditor General says that major Government Departments are sloppy money managers, that there is no direction in personnel management, that 70 per cent of Government contracts are issued without tender, and that there is little or no accountability for millions of dollars poured into Crown corporations.

It would be fair to assume that what is expected of the taxpayer of Canada in the realm of accountability should also be expected of those who govern, particularly at the federal Cabinet level. But of course this is not the case as this Bill C-151 and the previous borrowing Bill C-143 indicate.

Bill C-143 was the largest borrowing Bill, for \$19 billion, in the history of Canada. Only a month later we are asked for an additional \$14.7 billion in borrowing authority. Of that, \$4

billion will be used, without doubt, to buy votes and pork barrel just before the next election.

Accountability is the cornerstone of the fiscal system of this country. The standard of accountability expected of those who deal with the disposition of taxes raised is far less onerous and in fact downright sloppy. The annual Report of the Auditor General of Canada is replete with page after page of instances in which the Auditor General is not permitted to delve into the affairs of federal Government Crown corporations.

According to the Auditor General, accountability has been limited, particularly as far as Parliament is concerned. Parliament is becoming further isolated from an increasing portion of Government activities. The growing practice of using Crown corporations to conduct a widening range of Government activities has so strained the capability of the existing accountability framework that Parliament may not be able to exercise its fundamental responsibilities for overseeing receipts and expenditures of public funds. The existing legislative framework for creating, monitoring and, where necessary, changing this abuse should be addressed by the House.

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Nothing is being done to address waste such as has been reported by the Auditor General. Inadequate management controls in overpayments totalling \$285.3 million have occurred under four major energy programs by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Department of Public Works failed to recover expenditures from Canada Post Corporation of \$61 million. During fiscal 1981 the Unemployment Insurance Commission is estimated to have paid out overpayments of \$178 million, and the list goes on page after page.

The accountability for public funds borrowed or otherwise has tended to decrease, and the degree of parliamentary scrutiny to which Crown Corporations are subjected varies from sporadic to virtually none. The information Parliament gets from the political appointments to these Crown Corporations with respect to activities of Crown Corporations is in most cases totally unsatisfactory. A clear authority and mandate for spending borrowed money, especially if it goes to Crown Corporations, should be spelled out and accountability to Parliament made mandatory.

The recent federal budget has a critical flaw in that it has been made to appear as offering something to everyone, but in point of fact it mortgages our future without any real current gain in consumer spending. Consumer demand is a key element in any recovery. The latest budget of the federal Government raises personal income taxes by a further \$3.6 billion while at the same time increasing our national debt.

Unlike Prime Minister Thatcher or President Reagan, our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) intends to cut the deficit by increasing spending as well as taxes. The share of Gross National Product now taken by Governments in Canada has already hit 40 per cent and is still rising.

We cannot afford to throw money around at a time when every third dollar spent is not covered by revenue but has to be