

conomic situation are resulting in disaster as far as many people in our country are concerned.

I repeat that there would be some reason for hope if there was an improvement but the Government is placing an increasing burden of debt upon Canadians and putting succeeding generations in a position where they will not be able to carry this debt plus a possibly increased debt in the future if, God forbid, a government like that remains in office for any further length of time.

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, when I decided this morning that I would speak for a few moments in this debate, I realized that I was tired. I did not know whether I was tired because I have had a few late nights, whether I might have spring fever since spring is nearly upon us, or whether I might even be tired because of a heavy work load. But Members of Parliament do not work hard, so it could not have been that. Then I realized that I was tired of the Government. I was tired of the excesses that have resulted in bringing before us the eighth borrowing Bill in this Parliament. My colleague from Fraser Valley East (Mr. Patterson) detailed the various numbers to the House and I will not do that again. However, this is the largest borrowing Bill in Canada's history.

Let me compare the projected deficit with some other projections. In 1979, my colleague from St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) projected some deficits. He indicated that by this year we might well have a deficit as high as \$9 billion. We are now looking at a deficit of approximately \$30 billion.

His successor, the first Minister of Finance in that infamous government that is now in power, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen), projected in 1980 that we would have a deficit in the \$12 billion range this year. Once again, it is far off the mark. Less than a year later that same Minister projected that he would have that deficit down to \$10 billion. He did not do that.

Finally, the current Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) projected last year that he would bring the deficit down to \$31.3 billion. They are finally making projections of what the figure actually is.

I realized that I was tired of the incompetence of the Government. Like my colleague from Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling), I think in terms of municipal governments. I spent many years in municipal government. I think in terms of Mayor Zegouras of Belleville, Warden Rabel of Hastings, Warden Kotchopaw of Prince Edward and the other reeves and mayors in the small communities of my constituency. They must budget annually for their requirements and are required to pass a borrowing bylaw to borrow the funds which they might need to fulfil the commitments they make in their communities throughout the year. They are concerned with real money because they budget and borrow exactly what they need and, at year end, their budgets are very close to the mark. Indeed, if their budgets are off, it is usually by a small surplus because they very carefully consider what must be done

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throughout the year. Would that this Government have that kind of decency.

I also realized that I was tired of the misconduct of the Government, particularly as displayed by Revenue Canada recently. I could add many stories to the tales of woe that we have heard. I think of one case which came to me just a few days ago of a woman who is widowed with one child living on a small cheque left over from her husband's estate and one disability cheque, for indeed she is disabled. In an entire year, that woman lives on what the Government spends in two seconds. Despite that, she owed Revenue Canada some money and was paying it off. She found she could not make the payments in the amount she promised and continue to live at the same standard, so she decided to move to cheaper accommodation and found a less expensive place to live. However, in moving to that less expensive accommodation she had to pay the first and last month's rent together. Consequently she missed a couple of payments to Revenue Canada. This woman, who was living on such a small income, had her bank account of \$500 seized by Revenue Canada. That is why I am tired.

We are told that the federal Government must borrow money in order to pay the income tax refunds that will be coming due. The Government is giving taxpayers some of their own money back. The Government is borrowing money and paying interest—at least, the taxpayers are going to pay the interest—to give people their own money back. Would that it had some of its own medicine inflicted upon it. Would that its bank account be seized as well.

● (1210)

I realized I was also tired of the unbusinesslike ways of this Government. We know that this Government is going to spend \$18 billion this year just to pay interest on the debt. We know the Government is into the money market for over 50 per cent of the money to be borrowed this year. We have businessmen who want to make Canada grow, who want to build buildings, who want to produce products and create jobs. But frankly, they cannot borrow the money to do it because of the bungling of this Government.

I talked to a businessman just the other day, Mr. Speaker. He needed to borrow really just a very small amount, \$4.5 million, only he found that the markets do not have money available right now. It could be that the markets are fudging a little bit because people can see interest rates going up and they will hold money for a few more days to get higher rates of return. We are told there is no money because the Government is into the market so heavily that there is no excess money around.

I am tired of the malicious boondoggling and make-work programs that partly cause this problem, but when the Minister and his Department are caught, they express such righteous indignation that indeed they could ever be the cause. Yet we know there are hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in these phoney make-work programs that produce nothing, unless you happen to be in a Liberal constituency.