April 28, 1982

Taxation

it will further undermine the industrial core that is so necessary for the future of the country. We believe quite frankly that this coalition of Liberals and Tories against Canadians has to stop.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that if there is anything you can imagine in your power that you can do to stop this coalition from undermining Canadian wealth, then I ask you to do it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: I would like to wind up my comments by putting to you, Mr. Speaker, that I would be interested in hearing from the government where they think the jobs are going to come from for the 1.5 million or 1.8 million—depending on whom you include in the statistics—of Canadians currently unemployed. Where will those jobs come from, if people in Canada who are working cannot afford to buy the products that those unemployed people could be manufacturing?

Where will the tax dollars come from to pay off the indebtedness this government is asking us today to vote on. Where will the tax dollars come from in an ever-shrinking economy? Where will the tax dollars come from when fewer and fewer Canadians are working? The unemployed obviously cannot pay taxes, and since the unemployed are becoming a significantly larger percentage of the total working population, does it mean that the rest who are still employed will have to carry that additional burden, in order that this government may squander more and more dollars? Is that the only alternative? Is that all there is? Where is the other way?

How are we going to pay it off? I ask the minister, what are you going to use? Where will you get the money? You can get it only from taxes. If fewer people are working and more industries are closing down due to bankruptcy and there are fewer dollars being generated in the over-all, where are you going to get the money to pay this off?

I put it to the minister through you, Mr. Speaker, that these policies the government is following are totally unacceptable. These government policies are, almost without exception, based on false premises, false premises of a sudden economic change in North America from which Canada will derive great benefit.

This is a myth. It is a myth. I ask the minister to answer me; What are you going to do to change the situation, to allow the people of Canada once again to get work? What are you going to do to make it possible for Canadian consumers to purchase the things that Canadians manufacture? What are you going to do to make it possible for our auto industry to hold its own during this period of siege? What are you going to do to ensure that there will in fact be a shoe industry after this government is gone? What are you going to do to try to guarantee that the rail transportation system will in fact meet our needs as the country grows? What are you going to do to re-instil in Canadians the kind of confidence that we have to have if we are to survive as a nation? When are you going to stop denying Canadians the opportunity to build Canada? Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to speak on this borrowing bill, Bill C-93, an omnibus bill in itself because it is also a taxing bill. I am pleased to speak on behalf of my constituents of Parry Sound-Muskoka and, of course, on behalf of Canadians across this land, and I welcome the opportunity to do so here this afternoon.

It is indeed an outrage that this government has the gall to seek permission to borrow \$6.6 billion to spend on its programs, at a time when it asks all other Canadians to reduce their own personal spending. In other words, they are the ones to make sacrifices. This government should be well aware of the sacrifices Canadians are making, most of them forced and unnecessary. Because this government has badly bungled its management of the economy, because this government remains committed to its disastrous policies, because this government exhibits aloofness and disdain toward the plight of Canadians, and because this government has shattered the confidence of all Canadians, the government is the one that should be making the sacrifices, and not the Canadians. The government should be reducing its own wanton spending, much of it obviously wasteful, spending which is the single important root of the problem. This government wants an additional \$6.6 billion, with little regard to the fact that the money it now has has been poorly managed. It is asking Parliament for a blank cheque—just sign the cheque and we will spend it as we want.

No Canadian, either those at the personal level or those in business, would be allowed to borrow money under similar circumstances. No one else would be allowed to conduct affairs in such a scandalous manner. It is simply a matter of sound, practical economics, obviously something that the government fails to comprehend. By asking the House to condone this throwing of good money after bad, it appears that the arrogance of the government knows no bounds. And, if permission is granted, who will repay the loan, and at what cost? We know that is has to come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of Canada and, as the previous speaker mentioned, in all probability the money that is being sought will be used to pay off debts we owe and will not pump anything into the economy where it is so badly needed.

• (1550)

The government knows that borrowing in this manner simply amounts to a deferral of taxes. What is borrowed today will have to be repaid in greater amounts at a later date. As the government deliberately marches deeper and deeper into debt it forces further sacrifices on Canadians. This is a sad and shameful legacy for future generations. Across this land one senses a growing and pervasive insecurity. It is something which is very real and which the government chooses to ignore.

The November budget provides a perfect example of this attitude of indifference. The budget presentation was an opportunity for the government to redress its past wrongs. It