

gone? I do not know. I can tell you one thing and that is that they are not over there. This has become the party and the government of big spending. This is the party that now believes in driving the country further into debt.

It is necessary to remember that this is the party which said that it would take control of the economy. Remember those Halcyon days of the Tories way back in 1984 when they excoriated Liberals from one coast to the other. They said that we were the big spenders, that we were out of control, and how they would do wonders.

Where is the country now? The Tories certainly have not gained control of the deficit? What has happened to the debt? The debt gets bigger. It gets bigger by the day. It gets bigger by the hour. It gets bigger by the minute. In fact, it was the hon. member from Calgary Northeast who pointed out that five long years ago the debt was \$170 billion. Now it is somewhere between \$340 billion and perhaps as high as \$370 billion. If nothing unusual happens in the next three years because after all we do expect the government to be around for that long maybe the debt will surpass the \$400 billion mark. Canadians are asking themselves whether they can take it. They are already answering the question. They cannot take it. They have said a number of times that they are fed up. They are fed up right up to their teeth.

I ask where the small "c" Conservatives have gone who believe in some of these old fashioned values about guarding against spending too much and making sure that revenues and expenditures are in line; they are sort of in rhythm. I can tell you that the government on that side does not seem to believe that.

In the past five years we have seen not 10, not 20, not 30, but 31 increases in taxes. We get more as a result of Bill C-20. Of course, the biggest one is yet to come, the big whopper. The government calls it euphemistically GST or the goods and services tax. Maybe some conservative propaganda writer thought that it would go down a little better if it were called the "goods and services tax." For I think for the average or ordinary Canadian, it is just another tax grab. It is just more money out of people's pockets.

Government Orders

Canadians have said, and this has been demonstrated in many of the public hearings held by the House of Commons Finance Committee, that the goods and services tax will not do this country much good. Is the government listening? Does the government listen when the Conference Board of Canada says 72,000 jobs will be wiped out right off the top?

The Finance Minister himself admits that there will be an increase of inflation. It will be somewhere around 2.25 per cent. If you consider the inflation rate at 5 per cent and you add 2.25 on to 5 per cent, you are looking at an increase in inflation of around 50 per cent. I do not think that there are many Canadians who believe that we can take that kind of blow to the economy.

There will also be an increase in interest rates. An increase in inflation almost automatically leads to an increase in interest rates. The odd thing is that there is an increase in interest rates, it will follow that there will be an increase in the deficit. In the last eight to ten months the deficit has gone up because of the high interest rate policy of this government.

This government seems to go in many directions. On one side it talks about the deficit, we have to get it down. Yet, on the other side of the ledger the very thing that would exacerbate the situation, the very thing that would worsen the situation, is exactly the thing that the government does. One sometimes wonders what it is thinking about.

Government ministers talk over and over again about fighting the deficit. They ask all segments of Canadian society to do their bit. I heard the Minister of Agriculture allude to that the other day when he was talking about the need to change the legislation having to do with advance cash payments. This was the government's way of getting the Canadian farmer to do his bit in fighting the deficit. I consider that an insult. I do not think the Canadian farmer needs the Canadian government to stay up half the night thinking about ways of fighting the deficit. If there is anyone who knows anything about spending and fighting deficits it is the Canadian farmer. The Canadian farmer does not have to learn any lessons from this government. Now, of course, the government is going to increase the tax on telecommunications from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. I suppose hon. members opposite are now going to tell us that this is their idea of telling Canadian grandmothers and