

*Supplementary Estimates (A)*

the length and breadth of Canada. They are fighting for democracy every day of their lives. Every minute of every hour they are fighting, fighting, fighting. We know that they will not be found lacking when we move our amendment.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** Now, what about the main estimates? Let us look at the main estimates. We will have until next December to study the main estimates. Can you not see all of those committee members burrowing in every day in August, Saturdays and Sundays, racketing through those main estimates right until next December?

**An hon. Member:** They do not mean anything.

**Mr. Crosbie:** March next, 1981, they will tell us they were not their estimates anyway, that they had to change policy. So we will all be going through these estimates in committees, in the crevices of this building where the committees meet. All the press will be there watching and listening to every word we are saying and taking it all in as we are grilling those ministers who turn up when they leave Waikiki, or whatever, every couple of weeks to answer to the estimates. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that the main estimates will not come back to the House either? Have I got that right, Mr. Leader? Mr. Leader, where are you when I need you?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Right here.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Is it not true that the main estimates will not come back either?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** That is right.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The past president of the privy council, who shall be privy to the council again some day, tells me that that is right, that the main estimates under this rule will not come back to this chamber. We have seen the last of the main estimates. We know that we have opposition days but the main estimates will not come back to the House of Commons. So that is not quite good enough.

Before I get to making my motion, I want to tell the House about some other things that we are a teensy-weensy bit concerned about. There does not seem to be any sense of urgency on the part of the government such as they felt last fall with financial and economic matters. The leader of the government seems to be uncertain about what he is worried about. He is not worried, we are told, about the deficit. No, that does not worry the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I am glad that he has said he is not worried by that, because I would not have thought he could survive the worry if he had been worried about it in view of what he has done with the estimates and with the deficits over the past ten years. But he has said no, he is not concerned about the deficit. He has a henchman, the Minister of Finance, and he is not concerned either.

I do not want to be accused of quoting anyone incorrectly. Usually I have thousands of quotations and from time to time, Mr. Speaker, you may have to wait a minute or two while I get

the exact quote so no one will accuse me of being unjust. In any event, here is what the Prime Minister said at his press conference on Thursday. I think the Prime Minister is probably going to give up holding press conferences. He said that "the reason why we want to reduce the deficit then is not to improve the health of the Canadian economy". I do not know why he wants to reduce it if he does not want to improve the health of the Canadian economy. Here he is saying it is healthy. We have a Prime Minister who thinks the Canadian economy is healthy. He does not want to reduce the deficit to improve the health of the Canadian economy because the Canadian economy, lo and behold, is healthy.

This is the economy that he said several months ago when he was in opposition was in ruin and tatters. This is the same economy regarding which last Monday night the Minister of Finance gave certain information and projections as to what was going to happen with the economy; in other words, the economic outlook for Canada. Here is what he said at page 245 of *Hansard* for April 21:

The general view is that there will be little or no growth in Canada in 1980.

Little or no growth is healthy? How healthy can you get? The Prime Minister is not worried about little or no growth in Canada. He clapped his Minister of Finance on the back and said: "That is the healthiest statement, Allan, that you have made since we have been in the government". I repeat: "The general view is that there will be little or no growth in Canada in 1980". We have a really healthy economy? The Minister of Finance goes on to say at page 246 of *Hansard*:

Our latest forecast is that the economy will grow by only one-half of one per cent.

It is getting healthier all the time. Imagine, the economy is going to grow a whole one-half of one per cent and the Prime Minister of this country thinks that is very healthy and therefore does not have to worry about the deficit. That is his statement. That is the person who is leading the government and will lead it for the next four or five years. One fears for this country, Mr. Speaker, when one realizes that a man who is going to lead this country for four or five years thinks that our economy today is healthy.

Then the Minister of Finance said this:

The consumer price index is projected to rise by 10 per cent.

That is very, very healthy! This is great news, Mr. Speaker! The CPI is going up 10 per cent. This is great news for Canadians. It is positively healthy; very, very healthy. Again the Minister of Finance said that there will be an increase in the nominal value of the GNP of around 10 per cent.

**An hon. Member:** What about unemployment?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Someone mentions unemployment. What about unemployment? Somewhere he has a word about unemployment. I see interest rates, mortgages, other domestic sectors, aggregate demand, residential construction. He is trying to hide it here somewhere.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!