

issue simply has to be addressed by the federal Government and it has not been.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) has a similar application. I will hear her.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support of the application I have actually asked leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the illegal and health-threatening importation and use of fuel adulterated with PCBs and the Government's failure to deal with this dangerous situation in an urgent and effective manner.

We heard the revelations this morning in the House that the federal Government has known about the contamination of PCBs in fuel, including the potential of fuel for home heating oils as well as gasoline, for a year and a half. That information has not been acted upon. As a result, there is a direct threat to the health of Canadians, in particular Canadian children, and I think that if the information provided by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Jelinek) in the House today is correct, it certainly buttresses our request for an emergency debate. To keep this kind of information from Canadians is unconscionable.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Just so that all Hon. Members understand exactly what this application for an emergency debate is, and I want to be very sure that the public understands it as well, these applications are decided on by the Speaker. They should be on a subject that for the most part cannot be dealt with in any other way. This is a very serious matter, one that has taken up the time of the House, not just today but some days prior to this. It clearly is a matter of importance to both the Government and to the Opposition as has been shown by the discussion that took place a few minutes ago. However, at this time, I think that it can be pursued in the House in another way and I am not disposed, at least at the moment, to order an emergency debate. I thank both Hon. Members for raising the matter.

The Budget—Mr. Vincent

• (1130)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

THE BUDGET

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Wednesday, May 10, 1989, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to continue yesterday's speech on a very important subject, the Budget. I said yesterday that interest charges on the debt would total \$39 billion this year. Fortunately, this not the extent of the Canadian Government's spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention the seven broad programs administered by the Canadian Government. Thirty per cent of the monies received by the Government of Canada is returned to individuals; 24 per cent is transferred to the provinces; 11 per cent is transferred to businesses in the form of subsidies; 4 per cent to our Crown corporations; 11 per cent to National Defence; 3 per cent to foreign aid; and finally, only 16 per cent is spent on government operations.

I pointed out yesterday to the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), who didn't believe me, of course, that in 1984–85, the operation of the Government cost \$17.5 billion. This year, in 1988–89, they will cost \$16 billion, which is a real drop of 20 per cent in spending by the Canadian Government on its operations.

When I hear people from various organizations say that this Government has failed to make the necessary cuts and has failed to manage its finance effectively, I think they are wrong. I think that a 20 per cent reduction in Government spending over a period of four or five years is something not many businesses have been able to do, as far as I know.

I also heard the Opposition saying that senior citizens and the provinces and so forth would be the losers. In 1984–85, we gave \$11.4 billion to senior citizens. In 1989–90, we will give \$16.4 billion, an increase of exactly