

• (8:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask my—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is the hon. member for Laval rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the rump, as this corner of the house is called, could I ask my hon. colleague, if he has read the statement of the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Canada, Mr. Lynch, about the budget?

[English]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Well, I cannot blame my hon. friend, because his confusion and his lack of knowledge is just about the size of that which exists in the minister and government that presented this budget. Here we have these people who not too many years ago thought the nation was on the edge of fiscal disaster, on the edge of a great precipice.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** The Diefenbaker years.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Quite right. Every one of those people criticized those years and the deficit financing. This year we are going into the hole deeper and deeper. What do we have now?—the greatest deficit in the nation's history. They are making records. They are making records every day now. They now have established the record for running up a deficit of \$790 million. This is far greater than the Diefenbaker years ever accounted for. At the same time we have the highest cost of living and the highest taxes in the country's history. Real good times! They should be in the Olympics because they would get a gold medal for this kind of thing. And the deficit of \$790 million does not include the Expo's deficit, or the medicare deficit which has now been swept under the rug.

In the coming year we are budgeting for another deficit which will run up to \$600 million or \$700 million by the time all the figures are in, because again they have not taken into account the full cost of medicare or the full Expo deficit. We have seen and are seeing every day weird and wonderful procedures of a kind that would bring about the disbarment of professional accountants, as the government frantically uses every device to cover up the real story of its fiscal malaccounting,

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the real size of the largest deficit in the history of this nation, and its misleading quotations in the estimates which have been the subject of national condemnation in the press.

In the meantime the government, with its cap in hand, ran to the market every other day for cash loans through short term treasury bills, forcing interest rates to unprecedented and dangerous levels.

**Mr. Roy (Laval):** That is ridiculous.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Ridiculous?

**An hon. Member:** The Viet Nam war.

**Mr. Nielsen:** There is an example of the fiscal knowledge of our friends in the rump over there.

**Mr. Hees:** He is going to be Benson's executive assistant.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The hon. gentleman should be immediately promoted because he would probably be an improvement over the existing minister.

They kept the iniquitous tax on homes, locking out young couples from that privilege which is rightfully theirs, the privilege of every young Canadian couple of having a home of their own. We have the sales tax on building materials, and in addition to having the highest cost of living I forgot to add that we have the highest interest rates. Another gold medal. What has happened is that this government, because of the rug that has been pulled from under the housing industry in this country—and the hon. gentlemen should crawl under that rug because that is where they belong—has forced young Canadian couples in this country to take up housekeeping in the back seats of automobiles. And the way the cost of automobiles is going up, as a result of the new automobile pact, even they are going to find themselves cramped for space. It would be humorous if it were not so serious and such a tragedy. That is the tragedy of their policies.

I heard my hon. friend who just sat down a moment ago talk about rent controls. We in the north would like to have something to control. These tragedies do not take into account the rights of young Canadians, and particularly those younger people who have a right to look forward to owning their own homes. I think this is the most serious tragedy of all as a result of this government's policies.

And we all expected so much. My friend who just sat down a few moments ago spoke