

Mr. Nickerson: I thought it very necessary to read briefly into the record the excellent amendment introduced by the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. May the Chair just add that we are dealing with a subamendment which reads as the Hon. Member has indicated except that the word "fiscal" has been deleted and replaced by the word "calendar". This is a subamendment put forward by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans).

Mr. Nickerson: Of course you are quite correct, Mr. Speaker, but because that is a frivolous and meaningless amendment, I did not care to mention it.

I share the views that have been expressed by many Members on this side of the House this morning. I think the time has come when Parliament must say no to the Government. Every Member of the House, whether on this side or the other, should recognize the inequity of the situation as it exists today.

I would call upon all Members of the House to use, just for once, the responsibility that has been imposed upon them by their electors and to vote in favour of the amendment that is before us today. I call upon every Member to make sure that the Government goes back to the drawing board and returns to the House with a Bill that does not ask for \$30 billion, \$4 billion of which is some kind of slush fund or contingency fund, but with one which makes the Government do its homework and come before Parliament with a request for only those moneys which are absolutely required.

It is my opinion that the national finances of Canada must be brought back under control. We simply cannot continue to live the way we are living. We simply cannot continue to have borrowing authority Bills brought before us time after time asking for more and more money as if there is no end to it. We know that the end must come. I would hope that it would come now and that the Government and all Members of the House would exercise some degree of responsibility.

The Government is drunk with its own spending and its own borrowing. Time after time it returns to the House. It seems unable of its own accord to exercise any form of self-control. It is fiscally incontinent and it lies upon Members of the House to bring the Government back to reason in the financial field. It is a historical responsibility of Parliament to do so.

It has been brought to our attention once before today, but it is worthwhile to repeat, that looking back over the many years, the historical responsibility of Parliament is to be a shepherd of the taxpayers' dollars. When the time comes, as it has today, to say no to the Government and to refuse to authorize the expenditure of additional unnecessary funds, the Crown must be refused for the sake of Canada.

It is of great concern to me that the deficits we continually incur are of a structural nature. We have heard the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker) try to argue that this is not the case, but anyone with half an eye can see what has happened. Ever since the days of the former Minister of Finance, John Turner, there has never been a year in which

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the Government has not come before us to borrow yet more money. We are on a roller-coaster, so to speak. Even if the economy were to improve somewhat, perhaps as a result of what is happening in the United States, it still would not solve our problems because they are built-in problems. We can only change the continuing, re-occurring and ever-increasing deficits through an over-all change in policy.

We need a new approach. The approach taken at present is that every government department figures out how much money it needs or thinks it would need and every Minister is subject to pressures from various public interest groups which invariably want the expenditure of additional public funds. Each department totals that amount and perhaps adds another 10 per cent for contingencies or some kind of slush fund, and all of this is totalled together and eventually presented to Parliament. This is the wrong approach.

The fundamental question parliamentarians must ask themselves is what is the maximum fiscal burden Canadians are prepared to carry by way of taxation, and by way of deficit financing as well because we pay for that eventually through inflation and the lowering of the value of each dollar that we own. What should happen is that this determination should be made and then the government departments and each Minister should be forced or obliged to operate within that maximum amount.

Parliament must say no to Bill C-21. We must call a halt to this profligacy. We must make the Government become responsible and we must implement the system I have outlined.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[English]

THE LATE RIGHT HON. BORA LASKIN

TRIBUTES TO FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have had consultations with the House Leaders on the other side and we have come to an understanding that at this time today tributes will be paid to the Right Hon. Bora Laskin. I understand that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) wants to do that and he is on his way. I would ask you very respectfully to recognize the Prime Minister for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker: The Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).