

munities across Canada, to gain some work experience and to see the country. It was a way of extending opportunities to young people. Yet the Government has chosen to cut that program, and it still remains deaf to the needs of young people in spite of the fact that one of the members of the other place has chosen to undertake a hunger strike in order to bring the message home to the Government that young Canadians have needs and that any program that exists to meet those needs should be supported rather than undercut.

Could the borrowing be justified because it is helping out those who are unemployed or retiring? Clearly not. The Government has recently announced that those who retire can no longer receive the unemployment insurance benefits to which they were once entitled. Having paid into the unemployment insurance fund for 20 or 30 years, one should expect to receive unemployment insurance benefits for a period of time upon retirement. I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are signalling that I have one minute left. I will wind up.

I really question why the Government is coming before us to ask to borrow \$22.6 billion, not because I am against borrowing in principle but because of the reasons for which the Government is borrowing the money and because of the economic policies it is following, economic policies which favour corporations and place a heavy tax burden on ordinary Canadians while at the same time services to ordinary Canadians are being cut back. That is simply unacceptable to members of this Party.

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada is keeping Canadians in the dark about its legislative program for this year, next year and the year after. It is also keeping Canadians in the dark as to the exact figures that relate to borrowing and the national debt.

When one looks at the figures from the speech made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) last month, and when one reads the booklets that came with it, one begins to wonder just where the Minister of Finance is getting his figures and how he draws his conclusions. It is an inescapable fact that the Government is simply floundering. It is wasting money here, there and everywhere. There was the bank fiasco and there have been examples of exorbitant spending in Ministers' offices. There have been numerous examples of waste in spending the taxpayers money. Yet the same Government says it has an enormous problem on its hands, but does not revise its spending patterns at all.

When looking at the actual figures it is interesting to note that as of today the Government, since it came to power 18 months ago, has been responsible for accumulating some 24 per cent of the total national debt that is on our shoulders today. If that were not bad enough, the projected deficit for this coming year and the year after indicates that they will be not only the highest deficits but the second highest deficits, and the third highest deficits. According to the projections of the Minister of finance, by the year 1990, if the Government remains in power, which it will not—it would have been responsible—

Borrowing Authority Act

Mr. Kilgour: Wait and see.

Mr. Baker: Now Government Members do not like what I am saying because I am using the words of the Minister of finance. The Government would have accumulated 50 per cent of the total national debt of Canada. All the deficits since Confederation would be accumulated throughout the term of the Government which is presently in power.

We know where the waste is. We all know about the \$2 billion here and the \$1 billion there. We all know about the attempted bank bail-out and its outcome. The Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall) was totally responsible, and on her shoulders lies the blame for the \$1 billion sum in this year's Budget for pay-outs to uninsured depositors. We know all about the Government.

We begin to wonder about the Government's projections. When we look at the actual figures released just last week we find that the Minister of Finance is really not on target at all. The deficit is the same as it was last year for the first nine months of this financial year, give or take a half a billion dollars, and that sum means nothing at all to the Government. So the Government has decided to make Canadians pay for it. It will punish Canadians because of its own mistakes.

If that were not bad enough, there was a ministerial task force composed of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), the Minister of Finance, the former Minister of Finance and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). These were the four Ministers who, when the Budget was presented last May, presented their Cabinet decisions on the first five reports of the study groups. They told us what the Government was doing with the recommendations of the study groups.

What did we see happen the other day? We saw only 21 reports of the study groups presented. That makes 26 books altogether. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are 26 books in the New Testament. However, today I am referring to the 26 unholy books that were presented by the Deputy Prime Minister.

We do not know what the ministerial task force has done because it will not tell us. I can assure you of one thing, Mr. Speaker. The task force has already sent all of its recommendations from the study groups to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet. In other words, the Cabinet approved the last set of recommendations this past Thursday. The Government has decided what to accept from the 21 most recent books presented by the study groups. Now the Government of Canada wants us to approve its borrowing pattern, and for what, we do not know.

I have it on good authority that some of the recommendations of the study groups have been followed. Let me outline very briefly what the ministerial task force has recommended as it relates to Newfoundland. It recommended, for example, that the Government cut the entire coastal boat service along the Labrador coast. It recommends the ending of all subsidies to Canadian National in Newfoundland. It decided—

Mr. Blenkarn: Good.