

General a chance to clean up the unholy mess which has been created in this country over the last 15 years. This uncontrolled spending and this Liberal madness actually started in January 1963 under the Pearson government. It has accelerated since 1968, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took over.

Mr. Rogers, the new Comptroller-General, pointed recently in Edmonton to the appointment of the Lambert royal commission to study the quality of financial management and accountability in the government and the recently completed reviews of Crown corporations by the Privy Council. He said that the challenge now is to maintain and extend these good management practices across the whole range of government operations. Why not give that a chance?

Why not try it out for a couple of years? Let us see if we can find this money internally, as is being done in the province of Manitoba. The Manitoba government has told all provincial institutions and government departments that they will not get a blank cheque or a big handout every year. They have been told that they will have to manage their affairs better and cut out waste, and that is what government departments in Manitoba are doing. I refer to one hospital alone which has reduced its operating costs by \$3.7 million because the government asked it to clean up its act. That is just one example. Administrative costs in that hospital were reduced by \$400,000. Why will this government not try a plan like that? We have an expert in Mr. Rogers. Let us give him a chance to work. Then perhaps later on we might consider authorizing more borrowing. But this government is not interested in cutting out waste and improving management. As far as this government is concerned the only solution to all our problems is to borrow more money, print more money and spend more money.

Mr. Rogers went on to say that there are three key changes which must occur: a reduction in communication delays between government departments and managerial sectors of government, better medium-term planning, and better evaluation and control of government programs. Mr. Rogers also said:

What my office and the departments need is a comprehensive status report, across the whole spectrum of financial management and control, on where we are now, what plans are in place and what further we need to do, department by department.

That makes sense and it should have been done a long time ago. Let us find the money internally instead of borrowing, borrowing, borrowing. Mismanagement is highlighted almost daily, and a glaring example was revealed this week. We learned that the government is paying \$750,000 for empty office space and that the Department of Public Works will shell out an additional \$3.6 million for a vacant ten-storey structure through 1984 unless Treasury Board approves a leasebreaking plan which would carry a \$2 million penalty. On and on it goes in the Department of Public Works as well as every other department.

I would like to cite another example which shows that this government is not really sincere when it talks about restraint

Borrowing Authority Act

and cutting back. This week I received in my office the document I have in my hand. I am sure it cost a lot of money to print. I placed questions on the order paper yesterday in an attempt to find out the cost of printing this document, how many are being distributed and so forth. It is entitled "Ojibway Language Course Outline", and the introduction says the following:

This Ojibway Language Course Outline was prepared to assist teachers in instructing beginners, young and old, to speak the Ojibway language. Hopefully, it will fill a need and serve as a guide.

No one could object to that, but I have absolutely no use for this document. There is no need to distribute it to every member of parliament and to everybody else across the country. Our Indian affairs critic should probably receive a copy as well as perhaps PC research and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), but it is of absolutely no interest or concern to me. It is just a waste of taxpayers' money.

I referred to one hospital in Winnipeg and the new Manitoba government program of eliminating waste and mismanagement in government departments and all institutions. The president of the hospital to which I referred released an excellent report on how expenditures were reduced by \$3.7 million. It was done by creating committees comprising nurses, medical staff and laboratory people. Teams were set up to review all operations of the hospital, and in one year costs were reduced by \$3.7 million. It is unfortunate that the government is not giving Mr. Rogers and the Auditor General a chance to implement their plans to eliminate waste and mismanagement and to save hundreds of millions of dollars within the government. The government does not want to do that. That is not the way it wants to operate. It wants to borrow more money.

It is interesting to hear some Liberal backbenchers talk. The other day the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Lee) defended the government and its record and told us of the wonderful job it is doing. He criticized us, saying that it is just terrible that we have the audacity to criticize this government's uncontrolled spending. The hon. member says one thing in the House of Commons and another thing when he is in his riding. I would like to quote from an article which reported what the hon. member said in Vancouver. This news report states:

Federal Liberal backbencher Art Lee criticized his government Saturday for failing to restrain spending and inflation.

Lee, MP from Vancouver East, told the party's B.C. convention that "this government has fallen short of handling the Canadian economy as well as it might have."

That is the understatement of the year.

—"the federal government has lost control over its own bureaucracy and over its own purse strings."

That is what he said back home, but what does he say here? He defends this irresponsible government. The report went on to say the following:

"The federal government must balance the budget and declare a moratorium on the growth of the public service," Lee told about 250 applauding Liberals.

That is probably all the Liberals there are left in British Columbia.