

*Supply*

on national television with the leader of our party and our finance critic and talk about and compare the two budgets, the budget of the finance minister and the budget that we are going to put out as an alternate. I challenge them to compare those in front of the Canadian people. That is what has to be done.

Let us go back to some of the history behind our problem. I have heard a lot here today. I have not heard a lot of people who seem to really understand very much or certainly could not communicate it to the people who really matter, the taxpayers.

In 1945 we had it pretty good. Europe was in shambles. Asia was in shambles and we were able to grow. We had no competition and we learned the good life. By 1965 we were well into the social experiment programs that we now all feel are threatened and are threatened because of the serious problem we are in.

We allowed government to replace family. We allowed government to replace individual initiative and we said government will take care of each of us. We will lead this good life. We will never have any problems.

What also happened then was that the other parts of the world rebuilt and started to compete. As they started to compete we had a cash shortfall. We had developed a system that we could no longer afford and therefore we started to borrow.

We continued to borrow. Members know where that has taken us today. We have a crisis. In 1984 we said we must change this government. Right across this whole land everybody said we have to change it. Except for a few of those sure seats, the Liberals were literally annihilated.

The belief was that the \$289 billion would be dealt with and it would be dealt with now. By 1988 it was up over \$390 billion and we were told we did not have time, it was a worse mess than we thought it was, et cetera. However, we were no longer believers in that sort of analysis, and so the birth of our party.

• (1610)

In 1993 we had a \$489 billion debt and we were told the Liberals will come up with a plan, and so they did. From October 25, 1993 when the debt was \$489 until the budget comes out this month it is going to be \$550 billion. We have added another \$61 billion to our debt. That is totally unacceptable. The people of Canada will not accept that. They are demanding that action be taken.

It is not good enough to say we will just add another \$100 billion and then we will plan to get it under control some time in the future. That is not good enough. We have precipitated a crisis which we are being told about. The dollar is a good indicator. It was about 80 cents U.S. a year or so ago. Look where it is today and where it is going. We know where the interest rates were and where they are going today. Those are simply symptoms and warnings that we had better take action and it had better be soon.

The biggest threat to our social programs is from this debt and that is why we must deal with it. We must passionately convince the government that it must deal with it.

The double talk we have heard today, I am glad it was not from the finance minister or people from the finance committee. Hopefully they understand things better.

We are going to lose pensions, UIC, social programs and education. All of those things are going to be threatened. Not because of any party or because some members take the slash and burn position. They learned that about a year ago and they have not stopped saying it. We are going to lose those programs because of the debt and those interest payments. Then what happens?

There is foreign control. I think we should talk about that. We should look at what just happened to Mexico. Mexico has lost its sovereignty for probably 50 years into the future. Does Canada want to lose its sovereignty? Does Canada want to give up its control of water? We have to look at all of those things. Our sovereignty is being threatened by that debt and deficit.

What do our good friends across the way propose? They have floated trial balloons. They talked about raising gas prices 1.5 cents per litre. That should hit just about everyone, including those poor families trying to earn a living. It is going to hit everybody. That comes from the finance committee.

Taxing RRSPs, that is pretty good. We are encouraging people to take care of themselves and all of a sudden we are going to tax something that goes against this. Dental and medical plans, surtaxes and surcharges on income. Changing the GST to a VAT. Are we going to change that? How high is it going to go? A lot of people predict it will go to 12 per cent. Maybe 15 per cent would be a better number. That is going to hit everybody, not just the rich we so often hear about.

What about a carbon tax? Give it any name you like, I do not think it is dead yet. If any kind of unity is to be promoted in this country it had better be put to rest once and for all.

What are the solutions? There has to be a light at the end of the tunnel. There has to be. That cab driver we talked about has to know there is a solution. He cannot simply say there is no hope, I hate politicians, I hate politics, I have no use for them all. In a couple of ridings only 30 per cent of people voted. That is a disgrace. That is the frustration of people who are saying it does not matter anymore, you are all the same, you are not dealing with the issue. That is not fiscal management. That is no management at all.

The money markets are telling us very clearly to get our act together. They are telling us by the dollar. They are telling us by interest rates. They are telling us to cut spending, do not raise taxes, do whatever to encourage the country but do something.