

[Translation]

Let me go on, Mr. Speaker, this article is too much.

[English]

Like Topsy, the Ottawa work force has just sprouted. And no wonder. While the top civil service regulars in Washington earn no more than \$43,000, the highest paid Ottawa mandarins rake in as much as \$62,500 a year... the senior executive categories in Ottawa had grown by an astounding 474 persons—or 82 per cent—in the past five years. The biggest single leap may well be in Trudeau's own personal staff which has now multiplied to an amazing 95 persons, with a budget of more than two million dollars...

Bank of Canada governor Gerald Bouey was calling for—

[Translation]

—he is so nice, he is so thrifty this man with \$75,000 a year—

[English]

—was calling for “a sober appreciation by Canadians of the seriousness of our economic problems which will call forth sufficient will to co-operate in their solution.” Lo, as he spoke, the Bank of Canada's new \$40-million headquarters rose loftily behind him—12 storeys of exquisite reflecting glass that mirror the sky and surrounding panorama—the most expensive office building of its size in Canada. The castle of glass and steel just down the street from the Parliament Buildings will include a 12-storey-high, year-round enclosed garden and a two-ton round stone imported from Yap Island in the Pacific that was once used as South Seas currency—

● (2130)

—the wife of the governor of the Bank of Canada—who makes \$75,000 a year—along with hundreds of other wives of Ottawa's senior civil servants and MP's have been sent to French school, free. More than 170 wives are expected to enroll in the 1976 sessions beginning January which feature two three-hour lessons each week at Ottawa's Alliance Française.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the statement made tonight by the President of the Treasury Board. On page 9, he talk for instance about old age security. He has put senior citizens in the same category as banks. He talks about old age security and the interest on the public debt and says: “All have their own dynamics of growth.” Mr. Speaker, these people have a \$2.35 monthly cost of living increase compared with the banks, which made \$445 million of profits last year, and this includes only the seven largest chartered banks in Canada. “All have their own dynamics of growth”. Poor President of the Treasury Board!

The process of controlling and cutting government expenditures is a continuous one and no single set of actions such as these we have taken is sufficient.

Mr. Speaker, this means that the President of the Treasury Board admits that the expenditures of the government have grown like a cancer.

I would like to quote a few more figures before closing my comments on agriculture, which is such an appropriate field for Canada. In 1960, there was one public servant for 87 farmers, in 1966, there was one public servant for 59 farmers, and in 1975, there is one public servant for 44 farmers. As the number of farmers goes down, the number of public servants increases. This is called planning and administration knowledge by economists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a few other figures that have impressed me. In 1974-75, the federal deficit is

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\$3.3 billion, while the surplus of the Royal Bank alone for 1974 is \$3.5 billion. This means that the deficit of the government is equivalent to the surplus of a single chartered bank in Canada. Then, they will try to tell us that the government controls Parliament and governs something. I must say to my hon. colleagues opposite that they are in power, but govern nothing at all. The decisions are made by the nabobs of finance whom they blindly obey, Mr. Speaker, the public debt in 1967 was \$21.8 billion, and in 1974 it reached \$55 billion, a yearly increase of 14 per cent. In 1967, the national debt represented 32.9 per cent of the gross national product, and 39.1 per cent in 1974.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I will say that since Confederation our national debt has increased by 60,000 per cent. So one should not be surprised to hear ministers of finance make at times political statements for their parties saying that all is well in Canada, that everything is fine, that it is fantastic, that all is well in the best of worlds, that we live in the most beautiful, the greatest country in the world, and that everything is great.

A few months later, in face of the obvious figures that do not lie, we see the Minister of Finance get up one morning and submit his resignation so as not to be caught lying because of his rosy statements, in opposition to the black cloud that was just announced today in this House.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In the bill to which he referred in his statement which is to freeze the pay of members of parliament for a year, may I ask whether that applies only to the indemnity or does it also apply to the tax-free allowance?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, that applies to the members' salaries.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the comments the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) made concerning the reduction from the 1966-77 level as planned in November I think it is important, in terms of the credibility of this program, that the information which is available be either placed on the Table, appended to *Hansard*, or presented by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) tomorrow inasmuch as it really takes away from any credibility to say that we are taking X number of dollars away from Y figure, when no one has any idea in the world what that Y figure might be.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, with the permission of members I would like to present these papers later because the only copies I have are these in my hands. I have the communiqué which gave all the expenditures in respect of all the eliminated programs and those reduced below the figures for 1975-76, and the others which are reductions from the approved level of November in the budget. I have divided these as best I could into two categories. The total of these two account for a little more than \$1,500,000,000, and so members will be able to judge, in the reduction from the accepted level of November, where we have cut.

In every department we have given the area where we have reduced from the approved level. Of course there is