Routine Proceedings

up to $100, and $100 adds up to $1,000. Out of thousands of dollars come millions of dollars and out of millions come billions if you start to look at your world.

You do not waste two hours of House time on a premature motion, that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. You do not ask for a report from government that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars unless you want it because you believe it is going to have information that is worth while getting. You spend the money on a report, then you request more spending, and then you want a debate before the report comes in that would tell you whether you needed the debate in the first place or the situation was under control.

That is the Liberal–NDP way. It is all sort of show and tell, with not much practicality to it. How on earth did they get the taxpayers of this country into the mess of borrowing $16 billion for programs and services, and every penny for the debt? That is bankruptcy. This country was bankrupt in 1984. We have worked hard for seven years to change the financial situation, and it is working. You have to stick with it.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hawkes: They laugh. That is their attitude to borrowing $16 billion and putting the burden of debt on their children and their grandchildren and their grandchildren's grandchildren. They have no shame about that. They live in an invented reality. We saw this invented reality yesterday at the end of Question Period, and it seized this Chamber for 30 minutes at the beginning of today. They believe it because they repeat it to each other.

An hon. member: It was there.

● (1210)

Mr. Hawkes: You cannot hear something that was not there. What portion of the caucus are embarrassed by this whole thing? They know when they evaluate the situation, evaluate their own experience, that there are some very good people on all sides of this House, all corners of this House and they are embarrassed. They are embarrassed by a runaway mentality that goes

beyond the facts. That is how you get bad public policy and that is why program evaluation is important.

That is what I taught. I taught graduate students for a number of years at university. The lesson is simply to apply a social science methodology, the scientific principles and the scientific method, to the information needs of decision makers and evaluate to provide better quality, reliable and valid data to decision makers.

The biggest problem we have in this country, I have said it before and I will say it again, is that the media has no such standard for reliable and valid information. The media feeds on rumour and innuendo.

I saw an article in this morning's *Toronto Star* that began by using the words: "Angry Prime Minister" in the first paragraph. I do not know, but I will bet dollars to donuts the author of that paragraph was not in the Chamber. There were only eight press people out of the 350 that draw paycheques in this town in the whole Chamber.

Mr. Whittaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is with some temerity that I interrupt the hon. member in his comments. However, I was under the impression that we were on a concurrence motion on the public accounts committee's second report. It seems to me that the hon. member has strayed substantially from the report.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I think the hon. government Whip is coming right back to the relevance of the motion. The hon. government Whip.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, a logical chain of evidence and illustrations of a point of view is a foreign concept to a lot of members of the NDP party. They do have trouble following scientific methods because they live in an ideological world where ideas pop out of the sky and do not necessarily have to be related. They can be disjointed. There is a kind of comfort over there.

I have been here some 12–odd years and I have watched it. I am comfortable with the notion that it happens even though it does not please me.

What I am saying is relevant. Let us go back to the portion of the paragraph I read which all members signed, including the members who spoke: "Program