

that the Government has not indicated where these expenditures are directed, notwithstanding our commitment to these social programs. What is the record of the Government in addressing the efficient management of the economy, the efficient management of—

Mr. Stevens: A very poor record.

Mr. Cosgrove: —the funds for which we are requesting borrowing authority? I am very happy that the Hon. Member who had responsibility for the Treasury Board operation of the former Conservative administration is present in the House. He well knows that when the Conservatives took control following the Liberal administration, they carried on with these programs upon which I can just barely touch in the few moments remaining to me, where the Government took initiative, addressing Government efficiency and concern for proper management of the expenditure of funds.

I refer, of course, to the policy and expenditure management system which was put in place in 1979 by the Official Opposition while in Government. This is a program where spending is broken into ten expenditure categories. Cabinet committees take responsibility for expenditure management within this envelope system. Each envelope is provided with a policy reserve and it functions as a bank account with unallocated funds. Priorities must be struck and, for any expenditure from those funds, a careful study must be done and all Ministers affected must express an opinion. This envelope system helps to ensure that Ministers trade off a request for new expenditures with ongoing priorities.

I would like to draw a second matter to the attention of Hon. Members. Of course, I am also glad that the Hon. Member who was the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board while the loyal Opposition was in power is here because he knows that the Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates are placed before Government. They have been introduced by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray) with a detailed, minute breakdown, comprising hundreds and thousands of pages, showing the allocation of the expenditure of funds for which borrowing authority is requested.

Within the Government, the Treasury Board itself, in its ongoing, every day operation, rigorously examines all requests for spending authority by Government Departments and agencies. I remind Hon. Members that the office of the Comptroller General has substantially added to efficiency in Government programming and evaluation. I think of the improvement in the Management Practice and Controls Program, again a Program which was adopted by the Opposition during its brief period of responsibility in Government.

Another example of control of expenditures is that the Auditor General carefully examines the Government's financial statements and reports to Parliament on his findings. The Government and Hon. Members opposite, Parliamentarians,

then have the opportunity to taking the report and the Estimates through detailed study and, in committees of Parliament, have an opportunity to review Government spending.

Continuing on to a new point, I remind Hon. Members that in 1975, as a matter of policy, the Government announced that it would endeavour to hold trend growth in expenditures to no more than trend growth in the economy. All of these—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. I regret to inform the Minister that his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Blais: Consent to continue.

Mr. Cosgrove: I would not add to my comments, except—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. Is the Minister seeking unanimous consent to continue his remarks?

Mr. Cosgrove: Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): It is agreed.

Mr. Cosgrove: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to sum up, not by introducing anything new, but merely by recounting the fact that the Government has set out in detail the ways in which the borrowing authority and moneys sought will be expended. I have attempted to outline, in point form, the ways in which the Government, throughout the last year, has detailed its plan for efficient management of its expenditures. I believe that in fact Hon. Members are not surprised by any of this material.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Chair would normally be prepared to recognize the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn).

Mr. Blais: It's hard to miss.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): However, it finds itself in procedural difficulty. The Hon. Member for Mississauga South was the mover of the motion which is presently being debated, and the Hon. Member, at the time he moved the motion, chose not to speak. Therefore, it is presumed, under our rules and practices, that the Hon. Member has spoken, and there are a number of precedents which the Chair would be prepared to quote in support of that argument. However, the difficulty could easily be resolved if the House were to give its unanimous consent to recognize the Hon. Member for Mississauga South at this time.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I gather that there is unanimous consent.

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, involvement with another matter made it necessary for my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney), to speak before me.