

which were created by the previous Liberal Government. This is due to the low interest rates which we have achieved. It is due to the vast number of housing starts and the general confidence in the economy that every Canadian feels. One might ask oneself what this has to do with the Patent Act.

Mr. Deans: That might well be a good question.

Mr. Lewis: This is the point: when we unleash that spirit, people start inventing and they need to have patents.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: There has been a flood of patent applications because of the fact that we have unleashed that entrepreneurial spirit. Interest rates are down, jobs are growing, and as the Minister quite rightly points out, we want to be able to deal with this.

When this committee brought in this report, one of the first things we said to ourselves was that we will discuss concurrence without any difficulty at all because we feel that when important work like that is done by a committee, we as a Government should respond. Therefore, we came here to discuss concurrence in this report rather than have the bells ring unnecessarily, something which might have interfered with other things. We decided we would discuss the matter here. I know that that is to the regret of some Hon. Members.

How can an Hon. Member move concurrence in a report and not debate it? We were shocked. It was so shocked it took me a minute to rise. The Hon. Member who spent all that time on committee with the report wanted to move concurrence without discussing it. That is simply unheard of so I sprang to my feet to discuss it with vim and vigour.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, it is now about two weeks before Christmas and I realize that there is a lovely, friendly spirit of conciliation and co-operation in the House. However, I wonder if the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Lewis) really believes that the load of information that he has just dumped on the floor of the House of Commons is really worth the paper that *Hansard* is going to have to use to print it on. It seems to me that he has simply wasted the time of the House of Commons when there are extremely important issues before us.

Next week the Government wants to bring in the tax discounting Bill. Why does the Hon. Member not talk about that? The Government wants to gerrymander all the ridings across this country. The Government wants to cut back on family allowances. There are important national issues facing this country and the Parliamentary Secretary is contenting himself with spewing garbage all over the floor of the House of Commons. Why does he not get to the point and allow the people of Canada who pay his salary to get their money's worth?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), I would say that it is well

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known in this House that no one knows so well what to do with a load as that Hon. Member.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I will be brief. My friend, the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis), says that his comments were directly tied to the Bill because of the flood of patents which resulted from the new entrepreneurship which resulted from the new economic prosperity. If it is true that there is this new economic prosperity with more people working and all of the economic factors are performing as he said, why then is the Government increasing taxes and decreasing family allowances?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that my hon. friend the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), a good colleague of mine, asked that question.

Mr. Deans: I knew you would be.

Mr. Lewis: The answer is very simple.

Mr. Deans: I would hope so.

Mr. Lewis: We were left with a horrendous deficit because of 16 or 17 years of flagrant Liberal spending without knowing where the money was coming from.

Mr. Deans: Profligate.

Mr. Lewis: Profligate, thank you very much. For that reason, we have had to increase taxes. When the Liberal Government was not spending profligately, it was making profligate statements like the one made by the Liberal ex-Minister of the Environment.

We regret that we have had to make some adjustments in the taxation system. However, the people of Canada will know that we are making every effort to get the deficit under control. With the employment rate going up and the unemployment rate coming down, revenues will increase. In due time we will have the deficit which was left to us by the profligate Liberals under control. At that time we will see consideration given to social spending which will look after everyone whom we can look after. However, when we do it we will do it on a reasoned basis. We will not spend money with the same reckless abandon for which the diminished number of Liberals were responsible. I say diminished because they went into the last election with 147 Members. Some 18 of them caught the *Titanic* out of the harbour and went on to greater rewards. Out of the 147, less 18, we have this motley bunch. Thus, Mr. Speaker, what can I say?

● (1710)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wish to participate briefly in this debate because of the fact that the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) has used a clearly obstructive tactic in moving this particular debate. People who are watching this debate will not understand that the normal courtesy is that if there is a motion for