

*Borrowing Authority*

billion it has already borrowed for the fiscal year 1982-83, but the Liberals have the audacity to demand from Parliament a further \$14 billion borrowing authority for 1983-84 with absolutely no accounting or explanation whatsoever. We, and Canadians in general, do not know how, where and why this largest money grab in Canadian history will be spent. What will the interest cost be? How much will be collected from personal income tax and corporate taxes? What does the increased outlay consist of?

In effect, Parliament is being asked to grant authority for a year for which there are no current forecasts. Will the deficit next year be \$20 billion, \$25 billion or \$30 billion? No banker would grant a line of credit to a bankrupt creditor who refused to provide up-to-date financial statements. Therefore, why should Parliament grant it to the Government under these conditions? These are just some of the questions that must be answered.

However, and unfortunately, what is abundantly clear is the reason for this massive tax grab by the Government. The reason, of course, is the Liberals' continuing and growing rate of excessive, wasteful, unnecessary, shameful and perhaps even criminal Government spending. This is not a temporary phenomenon either, because ever since the Grits were returned to office 15 years ago, all caution and control on tax dollars spent went out the window, creating a spending bonanza unparalleled not only in our nation's history but anywhere in the industrialized western world. No wonder we rank 24th out of 24 countries on the economic and productive scales. We are dead last, but that does not have to be in this nation of wealth and potential unmatched anywhere in the world. We should be number one, but immediate changes in spending habits must be made.

For example, we cannot continue to prop up the CBC to the tune of \$800 million per year when private networks can provide adequate service at no cost to the taxpayer. Nor should the taxpayer pay \$800 per day to former Liberal Finance Minister Donald Macdonald for ascertaining what is wrong with our economy today and telling us about it three years from now. The Liberal Government should stop advertising itself, a selfish and political habit which cost the taxpayer \$100 million last year alone. The Post Office is yet another example. While postal rates have more than doubled in recent years, the Post Office still has a deficit of approximately \$500 million and it is not even efficient. If it was not so important a service, the Post Office would be a joke.

There are virtually hundreds of other areas where the Government can and should make spending cuts in order to prevent this type of massive borrowing. Time does not permit me to name them all, but there are some I would like to bring forward. For example, the costly and bloated civil service should be reduced by attrition and the introduction of sunset laws. Even the Auditor General says one third of civil servants do not even know what their jobs are supposed to be. Cutting the cost of Government Departments is possible, as demonstrated by the short-lived Conservative Government in 1979. Liberal consulting costs, Mr. Speaker, totalled \$2,010,874,347

last year. That is over \$2 billion, Mr. Speaker. Surely some of the highly paid mandarins who are supposed to be so knowledgeable in their areas of responsibility should be able to do their jobs effectively rather than having to demand the services of consultants and consulting consultants and probably consulting civil servants sitting in an ivory tower who do not know what the real world is all about and do not listen to the consultants in any event, just as the Liberal Government does not listen.

• (1500)

Foreign aid is out of control. Spending through CIDA alone has skyrocketed to a record \$1,089,000,000, not to mention the long list of other Government agencies that are paying out millions of dollars to various countries in the world, including some countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Then there is the cost of Unemployment Insurance benefits. Canadians know that the cost to the taxpayer increased by 134 per cent last year to \$2.9 billion. I do not suggest that it should be eliminated. Instead of the Government creating jobs in the private sector through the offer of incentives, it is spending hundred and hundreds of millions of dollars on phoney temporary make-work programs, many of which existed under a different name in the first place. It does not create long-term jobs and therefore unemployment continues to grow to 1.6 million people and the cost has skyrocketed to \$2.9 billion.

Whatever happened to the Government's much touted six and five program? With all the examples I can give and the hundreds of others that exist, it seems that the Liberal Government is telling Canadians, "Do as I say, not as I do". In short, Mr. Speaker, this irresponsible Government has increased Government spending by 630 per cent in the last decade to the point where the federal deficit is now projected to be \$30 billion this year. That will increase our national debt to \$200 billion or, to put it in simple terms that we can all understand, \$8,000 for each man, woman and child in Canada. As soon as a child is born, he or she is immediately saddled with a \$8,000 debt. That debt will increase, rather than decrease. I do not think it is fair—it is not fair to allow the costs of mistakes of this Liberal administration to be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

It is no wonder that the Auditor General of Canada concluded as early as 1976 that the Liberal Government "had lost or was close to losing effective control of the public purse". Subsequent reports of the Auditor General were even more scathing. The Government does not act on the recommendations; it does not even listen.

There is no doubt that it is imperative that Government spending be cut. The fact is that unless measures are taken immediately to control spending and to create economic growth, it can be expected that the current economic situation will not improve in the near future. The argument that deficit financing is necessary under present economic conditions, is hogwash. As I said, Canadians are sick and tired of passing on the Government's debt load to their children.