

● (1620)

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe what I just heard from the Hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau). It was an unbelievable attempt to explain away the futile and miserable expenses and losses of this Government. He tried to suggest that the Government is borrowing this money somehow to manage the Canadian dollar. It is managing it all right. It is dropping right out of the sky, going down continually. I therefore hope it is borrowing it for a more productive purpose than that of managing the Canadian dollar.

It would be explainable to the House of Commons if the Government were borrowing the money to invest in some business arrangement, to provide some incentive to Canadians or a tax-bearing account or business. Instead, most of this money has been frittered away on expenditures that cannot be justified, and on wastage. The Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) had the list of all the waste that has gone on with this Government. Members of the Opposition offered the Government an opportunity to set up a parliamentary committee to assist them in finding ways to slow down the spend, spend, spend of the federal Government with absolutely no control so that we are now running deficits of \$30 billion.

Mr. Gimaïel: The provincial governments are spending it.

Mr. Schellenberger: The Member opposite talks about provincial governments. The federal Government is finding it so difficult to finance its mismanagement that it is attempting to push on to the provinces part of the borrowing. It thinks they have room. Is that the way to manage a national economy? I doubt it. That is why the amendment put forward by the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) makes so much sense.

Why would Members of Parliament be asked to justify that type of borrowing when there is no way the federal Government can explain over \$10 billion of its expenditures? If it came before the House and gave the reasons why it required this kind of expenditure, and if they were reasonable, I am sure Members on all sides would approve it. However, the Government has not done that. It has not attempted to come forward with the reasons why it needs borrowing authority for \$29.5 billion.

Members have often spoken in this House and to the Canadian people about the kind of burden this will place on Canadian society. This Bill alone means \$800 for every man, woman and child in Canada. At the same time we find in the Estimates an estimate for the propping up of Canadair. It is a tremendous amount of money. It lost \$1.4 billion last year and \$330 million this year. If that were the case in the private sector, the board of directors would be questioned about that amount of loss. The chairman of the board would be asked to justify the management of the company which lost that money. What has the Government done? Instead of requiring Canadair to come before the Minister and telling them that they have not managed the company very well and that they must be replaced, that has not been done. I do not think they even

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had their fingers rapped. They replaced everyone on the board of directors, including the chairman, a former Liberal who sat in this House.

How can we as Members of Parliament say to the people of this country that we are going to approve this kind of borrowing authority? In 1968, not too long ago, government spending was only \$12.3 billion. Today, the Estimates, including the Supplementary Estimates, show the amount to be close to \$100 billion. One out of every \$5 will be spent on financing the deficit, which has accumulated to \$180 billion, compared to \$17 billion in 1968, just a few years ago. One out of three dollars of revenue collected by the Government goes to financing this kind of deficit.

In the Budget, which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) brought down a short while ago, he projected that if we do not throw this Government out, which happily we will do soon, deficits of \$25 billion plus will continue for the next four years. If that is allowed, by 1988 the net deficit in this country will have risen to \$261 billion. So many dollars will be taken out of the Canadian economy by the Government that there will be very little room for the private sector to borrow money to set up revenue-producing industries and create jobs in the private sector. The Government feels it has a monopoly on this, but it is not doing very well when we have a 11.3 per cent unemployment in this country today.

What is happening? We had a Bill before the House just lately which will transfer more of its expenditures and a larger tax base to the provincial governments as far as borrowing is concerned. It will shift the burden of the cost of social services, medicare and education to the provinces. Not only is the Government asking to borrow more money to spend, it is shifting the burden to the provinces, which, it feels, have more room to borrow. This is an ongoing example of borrow-spend, borrow-spend. It goes on and on. Looking at the massive Estimates for this fiscal year, it is astonishing to note the growth of Government spending.

I entirely support the amendment put forward by the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka which states that this House should not grant a borrowing authority of that magnitude when the Government cannot justify its expenses. That is objectionable in principle, and this House, therefore, declines to do that.

I guess that the impact of the excellent speeches by Members of this Party is such that the Government can no longer take it. The Minister stood in his place after Question Period today and said we have to halt this debate. The government Members cannot handle the pressure anymore. It is getting to them. They are having trouble explaining this deficit, therefore they intend to cut off all debate. Members of Parliament will not be allowed to bring forward objections to this kind of borrowing, objections to unjustified spending and constant waste by this Government. Members of Parliament will not be allowed to attempt to straighten out the Budget. Therefore, we have had notice of the motion that will allow the Government to move closure on this debate in the very near future.