

Government Orders

When I go into a prison I do not spend my time in the warden's office. I get to the grassroots population, the guards and people who work closely with the inmates. I go to the coffee shops and meet with nurses coming off shift from the hospital. I sit down and listen to what they have to say. Government members say they have conferred with people but I would like to know why they did not get the same message I got.

People ask such questions as: "What are they doing? We do not quite understand. Why will they not accept the idea that the pension is gold plated and at least be willing to say that they should do their part?" When we look at the figure of \$1,239,000 going to this gold plated pension plan, we sit over here and complain. They do not have the guts to stand up and say that yes, they should do their part but they do not.

I have pulled some figures out of the public accounts and if I can pull these out of public accounts, anybody can. People should be told that the public accounts indicate that last year this government spent \$374 million on language instruction. In the immigration and citizenship section the figure is \$298 million. People would like to know what that is all about.

The funny part is that when we get into multiculturalism we see these big million dollar figures. Most of the people I talked to are immigrants and they asked: "What are they doing? Why are they spending their money on these things? They are nice but at the same time our health programs are going down the tube. Education is going down the tube. Protection is going down the tube and even defence which is important is being cut and going down the tube".

There is welfare out there for the needy. In a pig's eye, it is for the greedy. There are single mothers who ask: "Why can I not get some help? I am single. I have kids. I am divorced and having problems. Why can I not have some help?" I do not know the answer.

All you people on that side do is chatter. You do not give answers to anybody. You play the old political, yap, yap, yap, blah, blah, blah and say nothing. You have been doing that for 30 years. Now we wonder why we have a \$560 billion debt and this huge deficit every year?

People tell me they do not understand. I tell them: Come and listen to the Liberals and you will understand. That is the way they have been operating for 30 years. They will not even give up their little blue cars. On occasion a minister might walk or take the green bus like the rest of us. But no, leave the cars sitting out front with a driver. Let the engines run, it does not matter. Then they walk in here and talk about the millions of kids who are living in poverty, while their cars are running and their chauffeurs are waiting. That is what they do. There is no sign whatsoever that they are interested in giving up anything that would help. A selfish lot right from day one.

• (1730)

We talked to the people and we came up with a taxpayers' budget. They say we have priorities and why do the Liberals not have priorities. This is what the people are saying. Obviously their budget does not match what people are saying. Three per cent of GDP means a \$25 billion deficit in three years. Is that not wonderful? We will be paying \$50 billion in interest. We will have another \$25 billion worth of debt.

We are doing our part but perhaps we should listen to the NDP. There is bound to be a pile of dollars out there that we can gather in because we need more revenue. Tax them more. Spend more. Do everything we possibly can.

With respect to justice, it costs \$40,000 per year to house our inmates and we have something like 17,000 inmates. If we multiply that—we do not have to be too sharp, we can even be a school teacher to do that—we come up with millions and millions more dollars. It is \$40,000 to take care of an inmate.

Even one of the Liberals said we have 1,700 from other countries and perhaps we should deport them. I applaud that. That is a good idea. That came from the other side of the House. Good grief, why do the members not listen to that member? We have 1,700 non-citizens sitting in our jails and it is costing us \$40,000 a head. Let us send them back. Let us deport them to their countries. That would probably be the worst punishment they could get. Why do we not come up with solutions to what is happening in our judicial system?

If the member for Halifax would only pay attention she might even learn something; I doubt it but she might. I would imagine she has opted out of her pension plan so she can talk a lot.

Ms. Clancy: No she has not and she will not either. You may quote me.

Mr. Thompson: I will quote her, she will not either. Of course I did not expect any different.

I can recall not too many years back I was told by certain officials in the justice department that once upon a time there were countries interested in negotiating a deal by which they would contract and house our convicts for us, that they would save us a lot of money. Perhaps we need to start looking at that. Perhaps we need to contract with other places to help us with this problem.

The whole crux of this is coming from the people of this country. When we talk to the people, when we talk to their bosses, even though they do not act like bosses—the taxpayer happens to be their boss, I will remind members just in case they have forgotten—they are quite upset that we do not seem to come up with priorities in the House and say we have to take care of health, education, protection, we do need a defence, we want