

*Government Orders*

gallery when one makes remarks in the House of Commons. I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, would want to remind the House of that.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I am sure that the Whip of the government party is well aware of what he should be doing in this Chamber. He has been around here for quite a long time and I am sure he will take heed.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the deputy Whip for the other side for bringing that to my attention. When I glanced up and saw the look of disbelief as they heard the speeches from the other side, I guess it just compelled me to stand and talk.

Everybody understands that when you borrow, you have to pay back, and when you borrow even more then you have less.

**Mr. Gauthier:** This is a tax bill.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Yes, it is a tax bill, as my friend across the way states. You are right it is a tax bill. Taxes are not popular.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Nothing to do with borrowing.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Borrowing is popular. Taxing is not. We suffered for 12 years from that philosophy of borrow, borrow, borrow, do not tax. Increase expenditures and we will be popular. Well, the chicken has come home to roost.

When I was first elected to the House, 12 cents out of a revenue taxation dollar went to pay interest on the debt. It is 35 cents today. We had 88 cents for pensions, medicare, VIA Rail and all those things. We have 65 cents today.

We hear members on the opposite side stand in the House and fight us on the cuts. The member for Nickel Belt says: "Do not cut 12,000 civil servants". That is what he has been saying for four years. Then today he said: "Do not hire 2,500". How can you have it both ways? Only the NDP can have it both ways. They are not responsible. They are an opposition party. There is a lot of fun to be had in opposition but there is a lot of hard work in governing.

A lot of decisions that have to be made are tough decisions. We try to make them with as much humanity and as much compassion as we can in the circumstances. We try to examine the research evidence to see how we

can cut expenditures and how we can raise revenue, how we can get rid of 12 years of mismanagement of this economy and return the country to health. We have not done too badly.

Since free trade came in 209,000 Canadians have jobs. They are not on the welfare rolls, they are not on unemployment insurance today. That is 209,000 in a brief nine months. There are 1.5 million Canadians who have a job today who did not have a job five years ago. That is not bad management. Let us make the contrast. I say to all of the senior citizens who may be watching us today: "Out of your lifetime of experience in this country, after listening carefully to the Opposition about how the country is in trouble and owes more money than it should, what would you do?" What would their 90 years, 85 years, and 80 years of experience tell us to do? They would say: "Cut your expenditures, but don't cut out food. People have to eat. Don't cut out shelter. Don't cut out health care. The basics of life have to be taken care of, but cut some of your discretionary spending, as much as you can". They would say to continue to look forward, continue to cut out waste. But you have to get some extra income. You can't continue the debt spiral.

We cannot buy a house with a \$20,000 mortgage and make it \$21,000 the next year, \$25,000 the year after that and \$30,000 the year after that. Your mortgage cannot grow. To prepare for your retirement your mortgage has to go down. There have to be tax changes.

• (1610)

The Member from Edmonton East said: "silent killer of jobs". Well, it is getting noisier. People are beginning to understand that the manufacturers' sales tax is a cancer. It has been around since 1924.

**Mr. Milliken:** You keep raising it.

**Mr. Hawkes:** He says because you keep raising it. Of course. We have to raise taxes, but with a little co-operation on the other side we can get a better tax in place that does not kill jobs but creates jobs, provides a stable source of revenue, and reduces our need to borrow because more Canadians will have jobs, more Canadians will be paying taxes, fewer Canadians will be dependent on welfare, fewer Canadians will be dependent on unemployment insurance.

That is what this government's policies are all about. Canadians are told that taxes do not have to be raised, that expenditure cuts do not have to be made. I ask them to contrast that with the reality that that creates debt and debt chokes us all. Debt creates bankruptcy whether we