

going away. It will not go away without some national and provincial leadership.

Let us look at the debt of my province and the federal government in 1945. It is many times greater than the one we have now, translated into 1991 dollars. It is all relative. By 1956 my province which started out bankrupt had paid off the entire debt from the dirty thirties and the Second World War. The federal government repaid all its debts from the dirty thirties and the Second World War. That debt was all what we owed because we financed the whole war ourselves.

What we need is the courage, the political will, and the political risk to challenge this nation, to challenge the people and put before them a rebuilding of all our country.

When we look around to see how much there is to be done, the crying need, every city in this country has a waiting list as long as an arm for chronic care beds, co-op housing, senior citizens' housing, and low income housing. Most municipalities in this country need to rebuild or rejuvenate their sewer and water systems as well as their streets and sidewalks.

We need a national fund to which the federal government, the provincial governments and the municipalities contribute and borrow from. The federal government can say that they can have it at 4 per cent and that it will pay the difference on the interest. This will put people to work.

• (1720)

I recommend and urge my colleagues to read a book called *The Unnecessary Evil* by Professor Bellan from the University of Manitoba who is no NDPer. He refers to all the hysteria and hypnotism members of this place, including some from my party, have about deficits and debts. Most of it is money we owe ourselves. Some 80 per cent of our national debt is money we owe ourselves. I meticulously buy Canada Savings Bonds every year and the government pays it back to me with some nice interest, but I do it because I want to do it.

Surely a fundamental change in the direction, the nature and the purpose of our society, is overdue. It does not matter whether it is a Tory, a Liberal or an NDP government if we do not have the courage and the

political will to do it, to make this fundamental change in the direction of government, in the direction of society. Of course it will mean increasing deficits in the short term, but the only way to pay off deficits and debts is with full employment: they are working and they are paying income tax. They do not want and would not need home care in most cases. They would not need benefits provided because they are unemployed and whatnot, if there was full employment.

We could do what we did during the war. We had a declaration of war and this country did a magnificent job. We put one million men and women in uniform. I remember working in the shipyards as a 17-year-old in 1942 and 1943. I got paid well and I paid my taxes and I bought War Savings Certificates and War Savings Bonds.

We can do the same thing again. There is no reason why we could not and why we should not. The economists I listen to on the TV and the radio and read in the newspaper never had to look for jobs. They do not know—if you do not mind me saying, Mr. Speaker—their ass from a hole in the ground.

This change that I am asking for is nothing radical. It is not terrible socialism. It is what the people in my province and in my country did before.

Does the government want to do something about national unity? Bring in full employment policies so that people in other parts of Canada including Quebec have some confidence in their future. Change these outrageous, conventional wisdom ideas from the 1890s and the 1930s that too many people who governed or advised us had. It just takes some imagination and some will and we can do it. The money is there; we can make sure it is there. We can do all the things that need to be done.

My goodness, I read in the budget that the co-op housing project was cancelled. It should not be cancelled. It should be doubled or tripled. When we have to tell people to use their own savings to buy a home and that they have to pay it back, all we are doing is making them use their own money to get themselves a home. I thought it was a good move by CMHC to cut the down payment from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. Good idea. I remember when I bought my first house. I had quit the railroad because it was going to hell in a hand-basket. I used the \$1,900 I got back from my contributions, with no interest on it, for a down payment on my first house. I am