

Supply

I am wondering if the parliamentary secretary would like to comment on that because I think there are an excessive number of ministries. Possibly some of them could be cut out altogether or doubled up.

Mr. Kempling: Madam Speaker, ministerial staff is the prerogative of the minister.

I can recall when I was in opposition one of the members of her party who sits in the front row had an exempt staff of over 125 people. I have never seen a parallel of that in our government. People on ministerial staff can be shuffled into various areas.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Name it.

Mr. Kempling: I am not going to name it. The hon. member knows better than to ask that question.

The shuffling of staff from one side to the other goes on quite a little bit. If the ministers need the staff to carry out the programs they are engaged in then they should have the staff to do so.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Madam Speaker, there is a motion before this House that asks us to concur in the Main Estimates of the spending of the Government of Canada through to the end of the year, March 31, 1993.

As we look at these estimates we can talk about all that things that are happening and are not happening in the country. We can talk about financial matters and those other matters that concern the country very deeply.

There are certainly many problems that face this country today that are of a very serious nature. However, that is no reason for anyone in the House or any Canadian to go around being deeply concerned about how we are going to handle it, whether we are going to handle it, and what is going to happen to the future of our country.

If we have the determination and the insight, if we have learned something from past history in this country and from the past leaders of this country, from the people in the past who put this nation together over the years, then we will look at the past to get an answer to the present. If we have any vision in this country, any vision in ourselves, we will be able to look to the future and put it together.

I do not fear that Canadians today cannot meet the challenges that are facing us right now. However it is

going to take leadership in this country and it is going to take serious dedication on the part of every member of Parliament, every senator, and every Canadian from coast to coast to coast in this country.

I want to go on the premise of our forefathers, of the sound foundation that has been built in this country over the years by people who had faith in themselves, faith in their country, faith in their fellow human beings, their comrades, and faith in God.

God has given us a great gift. It is called Canada. How we as generations of Canadians manage this Canada of ours is our gift to God, and I suggest that we not let our Maker down.

One thing that is bothering me greatly, as we have this last day for the study of the estimates for this fiscal year, is that the federal government is unloading its burdens on to other levels of government in this country, namely the provinces, the municipalities and right through to the very doorsteps of every individual taxpaying Canadian.

The estimates for this fiscal year are \$160.5 billion. A new financial structure is going to be needed in this country and it is going to be needed now because the financial structure is all out of whack as a result of the niggling process of trying to pass the buck to somebody else.

With all my heart and every inch of my sincerity I maintain that the buck stops right here in the House of Commons of Canada. This is where the leadership has got to come from if we are going to manage this nation well.

Yes, we have a farm crisis in this country. It has been very well outlined by the hon. member for Algoma, who has an in-depth knowledge of the farm community and its difficulties in this country.

Supply management programs must be protected at all costs and they can only be protected if each and every one of us is determined to protect the farm community in this country. I grew up on a farm in this country. I have done all the chores that anyone could think of. I milked my two cows before I walked six and a half miles to high school because there were no school buses. I came home after school, got on the tractor, went out to the fields, drove the team of horses, milked the cows and tried to do my homework in the interim. It never hurt me and I recommend it to everybody.