

government had been willing to listen. Now the government, caught in a bureaucratic nightmare, must pull the cookies out of the fire. Bill C-89 is a clear admission of the flaws in the government's anti-inflation program.

The Canadian people are rather apprehensive about the Anti-Inflation Board because it was established by a government that has continually put misleading positions on inflation to them. Government is supposed to show leadership in asking for restraint, and to practise what it preaches. I contend that it has failed miserably. We have continually called for a reduction in government spending and for the government to show restraint in its demands on the economy. Public opinion polls and commentary have made it clear that most Canadians were looking for guidance to help beat inflation. They wanted, of course, to be assured that their government was in the battle 100 per cent. All they got was a lot of whining about how much agony it causes to keep spending from rising more than 16 per cent. I ask the government to listen to the people who have been told their incomes cannot rise by more than 10 per cent. I ask the government to justify its lack of restraint.

It was amazing to hear the former minister of finance John Turner, offer his economic solutions the other day in a speech to the Ontario Economic Council, when his record proves without a doubt that he was the culprit in letting government spending run rampant. Mr. Turner can offer all the solutions he wishes, because he will be proven to be the most irresponsible Minister of Finance in Canadian history. Under the direction of this self-seeking political operator all government departments were handed a blank cheque to spend freely. It is little wonder then inflation remains uncontrolled. Any government that allows its spending to increase 198 per cent in a couple of years, obviously is not out to beat inflation.

For the record, I should like to point out some examples of the government's so-called restraint and fiscal responsibility. Rather than make a concerted effort to heed the criticisms of the Auditor-General to root out inefficiency, empire building, waste and feather bedding to save taxpayers' dollars, the Prime Minister puts on governmental showbiz. The Prime Minister wanted to put on a show for the public to win approval. His so-called restraints might have fooled some people, but in these times of economic peril the young, the poor, the unemployed, the elderly and so on, are not really affected, nor does it help them. They still face high inflation.

If one takes a careful look, only \$466 million of the \$1.5 billion cut back comes from present program budgets, and the rest from what departments had hoped to spend. One has to ask what kind of restraint that is. Who is the government trying to fool by flashing figures around?

The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien), better known as "Mr. No", has said he is the only one in the cabinet with the incentive to cut spending. On another occasion he said the federal government really has little scope for reducing expenditures in any significant way. It makes one curious as to what the minister's real intentions are.

If government is to play a key role in dealing effectively with inflation then the taxpayer should not have to read about such gross over-spending as the 42.9 per cent jump in foreign aid. This year the Department of External Affairs will have a \$300 million increase in foreign aid, from \$700

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million to \$1 billion. Where is the 16 per cent guideline in this case? While the Canadian public are being asked to tighten their belts, a lot of their money is going to countries like Cuba, which has some 12,000 troops in Angola. Obviously the word credibility has been removed from the government's vocabulary.

The President of the Treasury Board will no doubt share honours with his colleague, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Drury), in that he will be known as the most irresponsible President of the Treasury Board. People are no longer going to accept double standards such as those being practised in the Department of Public Works. In calling for restraint the Minister of Public Works has not done one thing to halt construction of the Guy Favreau complex in Montreal, which will cost millions of tax dollars. Are there not enough government offices without creating more, or is the government living true to its record of increased civil service growth?

The Department of Public Works has allowed the federal customs department to rent space in the Manufacturers' Life Centre in Toronto at \$8 per square foot, despite the fact that over 39,400 square feet of space are available in its old headquarters.

In Winnipeg, federal government officials decided to renovate and old CAE Aircraft Ltd. building for use as a regional taxation data processing centre. When you take into consideration the interest to be paid on \$1.7 million for renovations, the moving costs and so on, an entirely new building could be erected. The Minister of Public Works has proven he shows no discretion in other matters and no discretion in government spending. I would suggest that his department should be investigated to see how much money is really being wasted.

I could go on for days about the Liberal government's lack of direction in using government spending to control inflation. The Anti-Inflation Board does not appear to have any guidance over the government.

If we were to take seriously the message of the Auditor General, whose 1975 report indicated that the government is inefficient, wasteful, negligent of accountability, and out of control—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. The hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, may I interrupt the reading of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) to bring to your attention that the tax data processing centre in Winnipeg, even though at a cost of \$3 million, has brought to Winnipeg 900 jobs, of which I am very proud. I want to congratulate the government for the effectiveness of this move.

● (2150)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member should make his own speech.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** He can continue reading.

**Mr. McKenzie:** Mr. Speaker, as usual the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) is away off base. He should read the minutes of the Standing Committee on Public