

Government Orders

women's shelters than there are people who die for lack of facilities to do heart surgery.

Of course, there is inflation. I will not compare the Brazil inflation figures with ours, because Brazil is much farther down this unhappy road than is Canada. I am very concerned, though, that Canada has already taken several steps down this road. This slogan of short term pain for long term gain is just a little bit wrong. This policy really amounts to short term pain for long term more pain. Canadians ought to be warned against what this government is doing.

In closing, I want to call on the government and the Canadian people to stand up to the banks of this world, whether they are the banks of Canada, the banks of the United States, the banks of Japan or the banks of western Europe, and to put first things first.

An economy is not primarily intended to produce figures in what is called the gross national product. That is an abstraction. It is not primarily intended to produce this or that interest rate. It is not primarily intended to produce any index of wealth. It is primarily intended to feed people, to clothe people, to provide shelter for people, to provide education, to provide medical care, to provide all the necessities of life. That is how an economy should be measured.

Our economy is called successful because of our gross national product and indices like that, but there are more and more people begging for food in our cities and more and more people sleeping on the streets in our cities. In the wealthy city of Toronto, the estimate is closer to 20,000 than to 10,000 people who are without homes. You can sometimes see them sleeping in the streetcar shelters. You can sometimes see them sleeping in the stairwells of parking garages.

• (1650)

This is a sick way of approaching the economy of a country that is so wealthy and in which more and more of the people are plainly poor. I want us to begin to construct an economy by saying, "What do the people need? How shall we produce it, and how shall we finance the means of doing that?", instead of starting at the other end and saying, "What would the bankers like to

take from us and will there be anything left over for our children to eat?"

If this government does not do it, or if it is not thrown out of office by somebody who does do it, we are going to follow the same path as Brazil has taken.

As a beginning, I am satisfied that with my party I shall be voting against this bill to borrow \$25.5 billion because this government is thinking only in terms of its relationship to the banks and not in terms of the well-being of the Canadian people.

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Spadina has made a very thoughtful speech, largely about the issue of external debt of countries. I think he has done well to place before us the serious dilemma that is faced by countries which have that amount of debt and the cost of it, particularly in human terms.

We are aware that now the net flow is to the developed countries, paying interest to service the debt, which is just the contrary of what it was in 1970. There was a \$40 billion net flow to the developing countries then and now it is an annual net flow of some \$40 billion from the developing countries to the developed countries, just in payments to service the debt.

It is a serious global problem. The costs of the debt are being paid particularly by the weaker and younger children in poorer countries who are not able to continue in school. The teachers are no longer there because they are not paid. There is no money to pay the capital expenditures for education. I am not talking only about buildings, but even about books and school supplies.

We also see those same weaker and younger people paying the cost of this indebtedness in health care with the closing of clinics, and the inability of a number of fairly major countries to buy vaccines and supplies which they need because the money just is not available any more. I think that all Canadians lament seeing medical clinics and projects that we have taken pride in seeing developed through CUSO, CIDA and many non-governmental organizations, being closed.

I think the hon. member did well to raise the subject of that debt in the context of the borrowing bill which is