

I might remind all Hon. Members, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) did, that this Bill will eventually be referred to the Committee of the Whole House and that they will then have every opportunity to direct questions to the Minister of Finance on any subject. As well, I might point out that the debate at this time ought to be of a general nature and that specific questions should not be raised. The debate is of a rather universal nature. I will not recognize the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Demers) for the purpose of asking a question.

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the third time may be lucky. As I was saying, the Minister's opening remarks are disappointing. Of course, we should be used to disappointment in this House from the administration opposite that has been there for the last 20 years. The Minister is continuing in a pattern which was best set out by one of our fellow members in this House, the Member for York West (Mr. Fleming). He said that the Government operates on the basis of "cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation".

That is exactly the trend that the Minister has continued today. The Budget that the Minister brought down last April included a number of tax changes. The Minister has the gall and audacity today to get up in the House and say to us on the Opposition side that he wants us to deal with this legislation which he has brought in now in a businesslike way and whip it through the House very quickly. When is the Government going to deal with these important tax changes in a businesslike way? When is the Government going to act in a businesslike manner?

● (1200)

Why is it that we have had to wait over eight months since the Budget came down on April 19 for the Minister to produce the legislation for the House to begin to deal with it? When is the Government going to play ball with the taxpayers in Canada, not bring in legislation eight months after the fact, after the changes are announced, as the Liberals have done all through their history?

I remember that in 1979 there was the legislation from two Liberal budgets that had not been offered to the House or put through the House by the Liberal administration at the time that we took over the reins of government. That is the kind of sloppy administration and unbusinesslike practice that has so harmed the taxpayers and business sector here in Canada. And it continues with this Minister malingering and lingering for eight months before he produces his legislation for the House to consider.

It is up to the Government to set the business of the House. Nothing is more important than tax changes and income tax legislation. It should have been before the House months ago. The Minister's Budget had two ostensible purposes, he said; to stimulate the economy in the short run and to bolster Government revenues over the medium term. The only reason the public has not risen against the provisions of the Budget, part of which we are now seeing before the House, is that they do

not understand what is to happen to them. They do not understand that this Budget is supposed to be one that stimulates the economy in the short run but that its real purpose is to take a tremendous revenue grab from the Canadian people in the longer run.

The Canadian people do not realize that because, according to this Budget, there is a \$475 million decrease in taxes taken in 1983-84, which is this present year. However, the Budget plans to take in an additional \$805 million from the taxpayers of Canada in 1984-85. In other words, next year the Government will take back double what it reduced this year and then the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) plans to take an additional \$2.4 billion from the consumers of Canada in the year after that, 1985-86.

He is not finished, however. He is now out of office and the Liberals are out of office. Their term expires at the end of March, 1985; but the Minister continues on to tax the Canadian people and is going to take an additional \$3 billion in taxes from Canadian taxpayers in the financial year 1986-87.

In other words, there is a \$475 million reduction now and \$6 billion to be taken from the Canadian consumer and Canadian taxpayer in the three years that follow. The public does not understand that. They do not understand what will happen to them if this legislation passes through the House. We are not going to support the legislation, Mr. Speaker, I can promise you that.

What is the Government's situation? What is the Minister's situation? The Minister's situation is that he is just as duplicitous, just as devious, just as deceptive as his predecessor whom he replaced. He is slightly less disastrous for the Government than his predecessor. In the last 12 years this Minister of Finance and his Liberal predecessors have brought in budgets that resulted in deficits totalling \$132,608 million. In the last three and one-half years, since the first Speech from the Throne of April 14, 1980 came down, this Minister and his predecessor have brought in budgets that are resulting, by the end of this year, in a total of \$82.8 billion in deficits. That is \$82.8 billion in four fiscal years.

But what did this Minister and his Government say it would do? Why, in the Speech from the Throne of April 14, 1980 they promised that "We will reduce the federal deficit in a planned and orderly manner". How can you reduce the deficit if you increase it \$82.8 billion? Is that a planned and orderly manner in which to reduce the deficit? That is the Liberal way of reducing the deficit.

Having fooled the public in the Speech from the Throne of April 14, 1980, surely in the document of December 7, 1983 the Liberals must have come clean. They must have told the truth for a change. Let us look at the Speech from the Throne brought down last week. What did the Minister and his colleagues say? They said: "While stimulating job creation, the Government will hold to a fiscal policy track". They love these tracks. There is the third track, there is the fiscal policy track, there is the VIA Rail track and there is the double track and there is a double cross of the double track. Now they are holding to a fiscal policy track "which will contain and then