

Time Allocation

by ordinary Canadians who then shake their heads in disbelief when Hon. Members opposite stand up and say: "We are abiding by the true sense of Parliament and are collecting taxes in a just, fair and equitable fashion".

How is the Government spending those taxes which have been unfairly derived, I will say, from the public of Canada? The Government then comes forward and says: "We will now spend those moneys and will ask Parliament to approve the expenditure of \$19 billion, but we will not tell you how we will spend that money. We will not utter a single sentence which will give Canadians a clue as to how their moneys will be expended." That is a pig in a poke. As an Hon. Member said previously, that is like asking someone to sign a blank cheque. No one believes that that is a sensible approach to managing the country's finances.

I will say that Hon. Members opposite are doing everything possible to make a mockery of this institution. Now, today, by asking Members of Parliament to be muzzled, to stop discussing this \$19 billion, by saying that it has heard enough, the Government once again shows the kind of arrogance, insensitivity and uncaring behaviour which it has come to demonstrate time and time again. I suspect that Canadians now simply shrug their shoulders in the manner of that infamous Gallic shrug of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he said: "There is nothing that can be done. These people are out of control. They have no idea as to what fiscal responsibility actually means." I remember that not many weeks ago the Prime Minister stood up and said: "We are now committing ourselves to stimulating the economy in an effort to create jobs". Then yesterday the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) stood up and said: "Hold it, we have now changed our minds. We will not really stimulate in terms of job creation; we will leave it to the private sector." That man must believe in fairies and leprechauns. Anyone today who believes that the private sector will be the springboard for recovery does not understand what is going on in the Canadian economy.

● (1530)

With regard to the capacity existing in the plants, mines and factories of this country, it will take months and months to get back to the point where we left off. With the level of confidence that exists in the investment sector, businessmen will not fall over themselves at this point to stimulate the economy and get things going. No businessman will do that when there are two million people out of work, essentially on the dole of one kind or another, and hundreds of thousands of other Canadians are threatened with job loss, assuming they will lose their jobs, are laid off prematurely this year or are having an extended vacation period. In other words, Canadians know full well that their purchasing power is being eroded on a daily basis. They are not going to run out and stimulate the economy by making large much-needed purchases, spending their hard-earned money in an effort to get the rebound under way.

I want to dissociate the Party I represent, the New Democratic Party, from the position that the catalyst or springboard

is going to be the private sector. They want to see some leadership from the federal Government before they spend their money, and so they should. Before they expand and invest their shareholders' money, they want some idea from this Government where it is going, what its policies are, what are its long and short-term programs and its economic and long-term strategies.

For Members opposite to stand up and say to the business community and the consumers of Canada "have faith in us", "have confidence in Mr. Trudeau and his Cabinet" is asking too much. There are simply too many incidents that have occurred which have proven that we cannot have faith in this Government in terms of providing economic and social leadership in this country.

I close by saying that we in the New Democratic Party feel that if there is one thing we should be doing today to take a major step in confidence-building in this country, it is not to terminate the debate on Bill C-143. It is too important a Bill. It involves too much money to have debate curtailed, to have the Opposition voices muzzled.

[Translation]

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, some Hon. Members have been explaining why they are opposed to the Government borrowing money to stimulate the economy, and at this point I would like to point out that during the past year, the parties opposite have, in fact, been urging the Government, because of the economic recession that is affecting Canada as it has been affecting other industrialized countries, to create jobs and to put workers on the road to prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, what is astonishing here is not so much the Government's deficit as the Opposition's lack of intellectual currency. They are having trouble making any worthwhile suggestions for helping Canadians get back to work and getting this country on the way to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, if we consider the present situation, it is clear that the problems are very serious and that people are going through extremely difficult times. Both Government and Opposition Members are fully aware of these problems, but sitting in the House and making speeches and especially repeating the same thing over and over again is not going to help us find any real solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to these speeches today, and most of them seem to demonstrate that the Opposition is completely incapable of proposing any serious solutions in the House. The Opposition has been asking: What is the Government going to do with the money it borrows in the years to come? I would like to give a few examples of what the Government is going to do with this money. However, first of all we should understand that the Canadian Government has a budget of \$90 billion. Now, when loans are contracted, it is normal to check what percentage the loan is of existing funds. A \$19 billion loan compared with a total budget of \$90 billion