

Adjournment Motion

money, the Minister is simply adding capital to the tail end of many existing programs or modifying them slightly. He is imitating the techniques of car manufacturers who put new curves in the bodywork to make buyers believe that they have a new and redesigned vehicle. For example, the RHOSP program has changed, but not meaningfully. A really beneficial change would have been to increase the limit for contributions to \$20,000, for example. After all, what is \$10,000 when you are purchasing a home?

The Finance Minister expected his housing stimulus program to last until the end of May. So did the Canadian people. However, the funds for housing grants inexplicably ran out. So did the Government's credibility. And now the Government expects us to approve its borrowing requirements with the stroke of a pen? Not when we have a Government with a record for misleading the public such as this one has.

Can one talk about recovery without discussing efficiency and restraint in spending? Common sense tells us that one cannot. But "Commons sense" is something different, especially when the Finance Minister speaks in the Commons. Billions of dollars are about to be spent, but no mention was made of cost cutting or restraint in public spending. Obviously, the Minister is content with the way the Government is managing things. Who is he fooling but himself? He must be content with the massive bail-outs of Crown corporations and with the blank cheque borrowing authority, not to mention the lack of accountability to Parliament evidenced in the Liberal regime.

However, the Minister of Finance is aware of discontent among Canadians for these and other reasons. That is why we saw him on national television last month with his Christmas goody bag and Santa Claus smile handing out voter freebies, including the extra \$100 million to the Farm Credit Corporation and the new ruling that farmers can spread their losses out over a ten-year period. Realistically, though, will this help out the farmers who face bankruptcy right now?

Yes, there is spending, but there is little mention of how the money will be raised for the Minister's program. There is some minor tinkering with tax credits and increased taxes on alcohol, tobacco and construction material. The rest will be left for future generations to pay off. When the time comes to pay the piper for these lavish spending programs, the orchestra and its director will have been replaced. The Minister must be aware of the fact that he himself will probably not have to deal with the long-term and disastrous side effects of his actions.

We cannot operate indefinitely on such a huge deficit. Where does it end? There are too many hand-outs and too many golden handshakes. Until they stop, the deficit will continue to grow until our citizens are eventually taxed to death, the nation goes bankrupt and our dollars will become worthless souvenirs, like the deutschemark of bygone days when a full wheelbarrow would buy only a loaf of bread.

It was indicated earlier this Spring, supposedly in defence of Government spending practices, that Cabinet committees were taking responsibility for expenditure management following guidelines set out by the Lambert Commission. Glowing words were spoken about checks and balances on spending. If these checks and balances were in place and functioning, why did the Auditor General have so much to say in his recent Report? As Hon. Members will recall, there were many indictments of over-spending in that Report. Bill C-151 with its inflated requirements for capital is a good example of how much attention has been paid to the noble efforts of Mr. Kenneth Dye.

In the past weeks, we have heard abundant eloquence from Government benches justifying the supplementary borrowing authority on the grounds that it is inevitable spending and that somehow they have done their best and we should accept that. Well, their best is just not good enough. Figures abound to confirm the fact that Government spending has risen much faster than the Consumer Price Index or the Gross National Product. There can be no arguing there. Let us not turn this country into another Sweden where free enterprise is virtually dead and where the tax burden is unbearable. Yet that is where we are headed because of a Government that borrows increasingly and expects carte blanche to do so.

In conclusion, the Government must exercise more responsibility in dealing with the financial affairs of the nation. One way for it to do so is to determine right now that it will make an effort to cut down on the deficit by cleaning house and following the recommendations of the Auditor General. The second way for the Government to exercise more responsibility is to encourage the increased participation of Parliament in fiscal affairs. That is a tradition that all Members would like to see upheld and which would be of benefit to all Canadians.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—Correctional Service Canada—Polling of employees—Role of management; the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby)—Labour Relations—Eastern Provincial Airways dispute—Enforcement of safety regulations; the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie)—Medical Care—Request that Minister introduce new health care Act—Inquiry respecting date of introduction.