

tors lack confidence in the Government and in the country. We have a government over there which needs to be defeated.

The Auditor General works for the benefit of Canadians by keeping tabs on the spendthrifts in the Government. Yet now there is talk of reducing this mandate by effectively reducing his powers to control spending and irrational acts of financial suicide. What a shame. If there is criticism, stifle it rather than listen and make appropriate changes: that is the attitude of the Government. That is why it is doomed, doomed, doomed; it is going down to defeat.

Last year it was indicated, supposedly in defence of government spending practices, that Cabinet committees were taking responsibility for expenditure management following the guidelines set out by the Lambert Commission. But then again, the moon is made of green cheese. It is difficult to see any indication of the implementation of any such guidelines. Indeed, I think guidelines is almost a dirty word in the Liberal caucus. After all, if there were guidelines the key players in the Gillespie affair would have had to resign, apologize and repent. That is why they prefer to operate without guidelines.

Speaking of guidelines, the six and five program is supposed to be credited with stopping inflation. I am pleased inflation has been reduced, but the deficit is in the clouds, to the extent that the Government will have to borrow \$29.5 billion to cover expenses. Spending is up by 10 per cent, which is double the present five and four program. The Government needs in one year almost as much as all Canadians have saved in their bank accounts, which are losing value each day as the dollar sinks to ever-increasing depths. This Government in its grasping leaves no money for new homes or new jobs. The tremendous borrowing will make banks that much richer and citizens that much poorer. Indeed, the excessive borrowing demands point out the absolute confusion and lack of realism in the Ministry of Finance.

● (1150)

What a legacy to leave to the new, temporary Liberal Prime Minister! Not only will he have to choose new drapes for 24 Sussex Drive but he will have to try to rectify the financial mess left behind by his predecessor. He will have to deal with a wounded, battered and sick economy and a country literally brought to its knees by interest rates that will probably approach 16 per cent as we come to early fall and an election.

**Mr. Clarke:** He will make it worse.

**Mr. Fretz:** That is right, he will make it worse. What to do, then, with this borrowing Bill? Why not ask for half as much money, which is all the Government really needs? I am sure Opposition critics would be less critical of a borrowing authority Bill which reflects stability and restraint. Perhaps then the programs which are not absolutely essential will be dropped, especially some of the advertising extravaganzas.

Someone has to bite the bullet. I ask my Liberal colleagues to forget the handouts, to forget the advertising, to forget the slush funds and to remember the needs of the people and the country. Eliminate the costly and frivolous programs which are

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bringing this country down. Eliminate the costly duplication of services. Another suggestion, a small one, but it is significant: how about turning off lights when they are not needed? When I come into the House of Commons at night and work into the wee hours of the morning, the place is lit up like a theatre stage.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Fretz:** Members of Parliament may have their faults, but we all know how to turn off light switches. The list goes on and on. I got some laughs just now when I mentioned the lights. If all or many of the lights were turned off in all of the buildings during the night, we could probably save thousands of dollars.

Think of the incredible bailout of Canadair. Think of Maislin. Think of the Crown corporations with their hands out. The waste is incredible. So why do we not take the bull by the horns and stop spending? Then the deficit will drop and totally unreasonable requests for money such as we have here today would become a thing of the past. Bill C-21 gives further proof to the notion that the Government no longer believes in accountability or moderation. Here we have an administration that really needs only \$15 billion, yet it comes to Parliament and asks for \$29.5 billion. The Bill is yet another reminder that the Liberal philosophy as espoused by this Government is to spend, spend, with no end in sight.

Listen to their spokesman, the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans), who on February 22, 1983 made a statement which was referred to recently by my colleague the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart). The Member for Ottawa Centre said:

A deficit is no more and no less than an increase in future tax liabilities . . . I believe that the best way to stimulate the economy and maintain the income support programs that are necessary in our economy is to use the deficit.

That is wonderful, Mr. Speaker, but who pays for the deficit? Our children and grandchildren. Future Canadians will be burdened with this deficit long after the Member for Ottawa Centre has ceased to utter such nonsense.

Whatever happened to keeping budgets in the black, even at the expense of cutting some of the extras? By the end of this fiscal year the gross debt will be \$190 billion. In 1984-85, the cost of servicing the debt will be \$20.4 billion or \$800 per capita. Surely something must be done to curb this. The Liberal Party is into a leadership race. The Liberals will probably elect a new conductor. But with the same old orchestra, they will play the same old, worn-out tunes. I recommend that an early replacement of this Government is the first step in the right direction.

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the Hon. Member for Fort Erie (Mr. Fretz) when he spoke about turning off the lights. Perhaps I might suggest that even with the lights on Members opposite seem to be running around in the dark because they come to us constantly for more and more money.

**Mr. Roy:** Put the lights on.