

Hon. Mr. Walker: If this goes to the Finance Committee, it will be under an able chairman.

Hon. Mr. Benidickson: That is what I mean. I meant that Senator Leonard would be a most capable chairman.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): This is just a little home-town loyalty.

Hon. Mr. Benidickson: We are dealing with the balance of the main Estimates and with Supplementary Estimates (C), which seem to be new.

The question should be raised now as to the limit of 30 days on the debate in the other house, where they were obliged to conclude their discussion on estimates covering many millions of dollars. I hope that the Senate will consider some of these items without that restriction under our rules.

As has been pointed out, with the inclusion of Old Age Security Fund payments, we have a budget of over \$10 billion. We respect that, but I am concerned that we in the Senate should retain under our rules the opportunity to look at these things without a date time limit such as has predominated lately in the House of Commons. I approve of this date termination, but I want to ask our leader whether or not we here are under any restriction in so far as date is concerned, particularly in our Committee on Finance under the able chairmanship of Senator Leonard, to look closely at these items.

Hon. David Walker: Honourable senators, I want to congratulate the Deputy Leader of the Senate on his very lucid outline of this fantastic budget, and to congratulate him on the aplomb and complete satisfaction with which he outlined the grossest and most extravagant budget in the history of Canada. It is hard to believe that this was the honourable member who sat opposite me when we formed the Government and who screamed to high heaven when our budget got up to around \$6 billion just a few short years ago.

Hon. Mr. Deschatelets: Your memory is better than mine.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Yes, I have a good memory. Perhaps it just depends on whose ox is being gored. We should have the venerable Senator Crerar here today to make his annual expostulation at the extravagance of Government in this country. I am not being partisan in what I am saying, but where are we

going from here? In 1962-63 the budget was \$6,900,000,000, a tremendous sum. Today, four years later, it is \$10,100,000,000, roughly speaking.

Four years ago we were spending less than \$400 for every man, woman and child in Canada. Today we are spending \$555, far more than the income of many people in many countries, and this just in taxes.

My friend the Leader of the Opposition talks about inflation. He says that this is an inflationary budget. It is indeed an inflationary budget, and it is inflationary because of the constantly added items of increased spending. Next year we have medicare coming along with an estimate of—and I am only giving rough figures—\$300 million. My friend, Senator Sullivan, who is an authority on this subject, tells me that in England, the end of the first year, it was three times what they had estimated. If medicare adds another billion dollars or even a half a billion dollars, what limit can the public stand? How long can this go on? When are we going to hold the fort? When are we going to stop the increase in spending?

Aside altogether from politics, I would recommend to this Government to hold the line on spending, because the day will come when we will not be able to increase spending further. The day will come when the law of diminishing returns will take effect, when the limit of taxation will be reached and when industry and our whole economy will be affected.

Yet I am not blaming Senator Deschatelets. He is simply sponsoring the bill and putting his usual Gallic temperament to work, outlining this \$10,100,000,000-bill like a song, as if there were nothing to it. It is nice to be able to do that. I think the leader is to be congratulated on being able to find someone to do it with that *savoir faire* for which Senator Deschatelets is celebrated.

This is serious, however. Like my leader, I have not had an opportunity to study this bill in depth. I received the bill only last night. But, surely on the face of it, it is outlandish. Just when is the Government of Canada going to stop greater spending? When is it going to stop increasing its budget? If Senator Crerar were here today, he would end this speech by saying *O tempora, O mores*.

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, my intervention will be very short. First, I should like to join with other speakers in congratulating Senator Deschatelets on the