

The Budget

drawing geometric figures in the sand and was killed by a Roman soldier. He referred to barbarians slaughtering the brains trust. He said: "This looks like book bashing, book burning".

This does not come from me but from a member of the business community on Bay Street who was describing this government's killing of the Science Council and the Economic Council.

Mr. Holtmann: Archimedes.

• (1230)

Mr. Berger: This is something the member for Portage—Interlake is quite familiar with. He has had some practice at book burning. I say that with due respect. He will probably want to ask me a question about that.

Oscar Wilde said that a cynic is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. I think that pretty well sums up the Tory approach to government. I think you would agree with me that Canadians deserve better than that.

In closing, I want to move a motion, under Standing Order 26, to continue sitting through the lunch hour for the purpose of allowing as many speakers as possible to participate in this debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe there is unanimous consent to carry on until two o'clock.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I very much enjoyed listening to the member for Saint-Henri—Westmount. I would like to say to the House that if Archimedes were living today, he would probably come out with a statement something like: Beware a Liberal government or a Liberal administrated government because the big dynamic hole of bankruptcy will grow and grow and grow. That is what Archimedes would say if he were around today and had that much history behind him.

I listened with interest this morning and this afternoon to what a colleague in the House had to say about how they would get out of this particular recession. He said the government should just spend slightly more. The government and the people of Canada are still paying for those "slightly mores" during the Liberal administration, those billions of "slightly mores".

I have sat through eight budgets since this government came to office in 1984—

Mr. Kilgour: All Tory ones.

Mr. Holtmann: We will get back to the hon. member for Edmonton Southeast about all Tory ones because he was a member of the Tory Party and supported it for six of the eight years quite happily. I heard comments from the member from Alberta who pointed out that it was the Liberal administration that drew us into this deep quagmire of debt.

In every budget the present opposition demanded the government spend more. Instead of the current debt we have, it would likely be another \$100 billion more. I sat in this House on many occasions where members across asked the government to spend more. In fact we spent less, significantly less.

The members opposite should poll their constituents before making statements that this government should be spending slightly more and not mentioning how much. I am sure they would find, especially the member for Edmonton Southeast, that their constituents and the constituents in their provinces would very much want to reduce government expenditures. That is why this new party is springing up in leaps and bounds wanting the government to spend less, not more.

With all due respect to the two members who have made some comments, I would like to ask the member for Saint Henri—Westmount a question. There is a grass roots movement in this country to spend less. Does he not see in his party that going back to the old traits of throwing money at this problem to make it go away is certainly not the way the public that would support his party would want him to go? I want him to really examine the question I have put to him about his grass roots supporters today.

Mr. Berger: I really think the member and all the members of the government ought to be a little bit bashful about standing up in this House and giving us lectures about bankruptcy and the deficit.

I am reminded of a comment made by a very wise person, Senator David Croll who passed away just this last year in his early nineties. He was active in our caucus until the day of his death. I remember him telling me: "The way Michael Wilson talks about the deficit, you would think he had licked it". I can just hear David