

I am trying to point out that it is not the amount of the expenditures which the Government makes, but rather, it is the quality and the kinds of expenditures that are made which count. In that respect, Mr. Speaker, over a period of 15 years the Government has lost track of the purpose of government expenditures. No one disputes that social services are necessary. However, it is in the area of optional government expenditures that the Government has failed completely and miserably. That has led to this deteriorating situation which has resulted in such damage to the Canadian economy. The Government has failed to recognize that some government expenditures are productive and others are not.

I will give you one example which is at a low level but it can be magnified and demonstrated in other areas. The Government spent \$2 million on empty office space because the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Kaplan) anticipated that there would be a new security agency ready to occupy those premises some months ago. The Government spent \$100,000 on a crazy advertising assessment scheme which related to the Special Recovery Program. Those are minor expenditures, but we can find expenditures of much greater amounts which have been documented time and time again in the House.

The point is that we need to clean house. The only way the Canadian people will get the benefit of that housecleaning is to elect another government which can take a new approach, start from square one, look at the purpose of government expenditures and recognize the difference between providing necessary social and health services on the one hand and reviewing the optional expenditures which should only be made by Government when they have a productive result. That does not include pouring money into an industry which has no hope of success. That is only deluding the persons involved in that industry. There is no place for buying votes with programs which have no long-term beneficial result. There is no place for \$400,000 expenditures per Liberal constituency.

I will conclude by saying that the public is finally catching on to the Government. People are finally realizing what the policies of the Government have done. It is our duty to bring this message to the attention of the Canadian people.

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody):** Mr. Speaker, it is always an honour to rise in the House, but to oppose Bill C-21, the borrowing Bill, is truly a great honour for any Conservative or any Member on this side of the House. This should have been called the blank cheque for \$29.5 billion detabe. The amount of \$29.5 billion is beyond the comprehension of most Canadians. It is a clear indication of the Government's waste, mismanagement, incompetence, irresponsibility and lack of accountability. Yesterday the Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) said we had not done enough research on this. We do not have to do any research, Mr. Speaker. It is so blatant.

I would like to address the lack of accountability, Mr. Speaker. That is why we oppose the Bill in its present form. Early last fall when I came into the House I was asked to attend a meeting. As a matter of fact, I was a member of the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

### *Narcotic Control Act*

We asked about the Special Employment Initiatives Program. We asked what the criteria were to gain access to these funds so that all Canadians could share them. We were never given an answer, Mr. Speaker. It became a slush fund for the corrupt crew across the way. That case and many more could be cited.

No one knows how damaging our huge deficits are to the economy. In the United States they are concerned about the ramifications of the huge deficit. I do not like to compare us with anyone else because we are Canadians. We should compare ourselves only with perfection. Our deficit is devastating. It has been pointed out in the House before, and I do not believe it can be pointed out too often, that every Canadian owes in excess of \$6,000. The average family of five owes about \$30,000. You could work your hands to the bone to pay off your debts, but you would still have the debt incurred by those people across the way. They blame the recession. Why is it they had a deficit before the recession came, Mr. Speaker? They are to blame, not the recession or anything else. The Liberal Party is to blame. How big is the Canadian deficit? There are more zeros in the Canadian deficit than there are in the Liberal Cabinet. I believe there is a direct correlation between these two groups of zeros.

I would like to dwell on something close to my heart in which I participated, that is, small business. Mr. Speaker, most of the Hon. Members across the way have obviously never produced anything prior to coming here. If they had run any form of business, they would never have presented a Bill such as Bill C-21 in its present form. They would have understood that you cannot borrow your way into prosperity. Every Canadian knows this, whether he is a householder or a business person. Small business is the one sector of our economy that is the most affected. Bill C-21 is what will make interest rates rise again, such as they have today. That will be the death of how many more small businesses? It is small businesses that will create 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the jobs in this country.

● (1700)

Unemployment is the biggest issue on the street today.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but it is now five o'clock.

---

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Shall all orders and items preceding No. 37 stand by unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.