

them up on the other side. They are upset. Never mind, it will do them good.

In 1984, the annual operating deficit—this does not include the interest on the debt—was \$16 billion, which means that annually the Liberal government spent \$16 billion more than it received in revenue. Show me a family or business in this country that would spend \$16 billion more than it earns. We cut spending and yes, we raised income tax and other taxes.

No one will deny we raised taxes. But in what proportion? That is what matters. The proportion is 70 per cent cuts in government spending to 30 per cent increases in income tax and other taxes. Thanks to this medicine, which was not the most palatable and still isn't in 1992, the Treasury receives \$12 billion more than the government spends every year, always excluding interest charges.

It means that this government managed a \$29 billion turnaround within seven years. Twenty-nine billion dollars in terms of expenditures means that tomorrow morning we can forget about the national debt. It has disappeared. We have a balanced budget and no more deficit. We have money in the bank. But we still have a deficit, because we have to pay interest on a debt that neither you nor I created, Mr. Speaker, a debt that the party opposite ran up when it was in power.

Figure it any way you want, the Canadian government's annual deficit since 1985 is equal to the amount of interest payable on the \$200 billion we inherited. Let an accountant figure it out. Whether they are CA, CMA, RIA or CGA, they will all get the same answer.

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Our annual deficit now is due to the interest on a debt we inherited. We are meeting our responsibilities. One thing we are doing to meet our responsibilities is a bill that will limit spending and would require a minister who wants to exceed his allowed budget to present a bill amending the legislation that we will enact.

I think that requiring a minister to introduce a bill if he wants to change his department's operating budget is the

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best safety device we Canadians can have for the financial future of this country.

People often say that the government spends too much: too much on salaries, too much on rent, too much on travel, too much on this and that. Unfortunately, that is a perception. Since 1984, the costs of government have risen only 1.2 per cent, which in real terms is a drop of about 20 per cent.

We often hear comments about what Canadians think, that the government spends too much, and too often in the wrong places. The amounts can at times seem enormous, some things that are done may seem inane, but let us take any company in any field of activity and look at its balance sheet, its financial statements. I am sure that all Canadian businesses and all Canadian families are at least 1 per cent off their budget. One per cent of the money that the company or the family spent was spent unintentionally. They did not catch it in time. One per cent is not a lot. I am sure we could find examples everywhere, in families and businesses throughout Canada.

I tell these people to allow the federal government which is now in charge the same 1 per cent. One per cent of a \$140-billion budget is \$1.4 billion. As an administrator, I am ready to accept blame for \$1.4 billion or 1 per cent of what is spent, which should not have been spent or should have been spent differently. Throughout the federal government, with all that it does, I can accept blame for this 1 per cent, although I think that if we who run the country wanted to eliminate this 1 per cent overspending, it would cost more than would be saved. Members of Parliament—not only Conservatives but members of all parties—would have to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, just to check every expenditure of the federal government in 40 departments.

I think that we have to swallow the pill and live with it. But we must also consider the positive things that have been done since 1984. Cuts have been made and that hurt. Taxes have increased and that hurt. As a country, as members of the Conservative Party, as administrators, we have no choice but to run the government's finances so as to balance the budget in terms of income and outgo, and that is what we have done. It is now in place.