

I did say I would be brief, but I do want Senator Murray to know that it was a very bad habit, this trying to deceive the people of Canada into believing that you had anything near a surplus when you actually borrowed more money in the nine years from 1984 on than all the governments in previous Canadian history. We are not talking about just a little bit of money. When you took over in 1984, the total national debt was about \$160 billion.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: What were the interest rates?

An Hon. Senator: It was \$280 billion.

Senator Olson: That is not right. It was about \$165 billion.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: What was the rate of inflation?

Senator Olson: When you left, it was almost \$500 billion. That is a 300-per-cent increase. The Tories, in nine years, borrowed twice as much money as all previous governments, including the costs incurred by Canada in two world wars.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: What would it have been had you still been there?

Senator Olson: You should hang your head in shame for leaving that kind of legacy to the Canadian people. Your children and your grandchildren will be foregoing a very substantial part of their total income just to pay for that \$300 billion or so that you added to the national debt in nine years.

You almost get a feeling of outrage when you look at it, and some people do. That is how bad it is.

Senator Molgat: Now they're pretending it's not true.

Senator Olson: But the figures are there.

Senator Murray got up and made that speech again. I thought perhaps that after you got out of office you would stop, but you still try to make people believe that that kind of accounting has some sort of validity. If you continue on that course, the Conservative Party will never have any credibility. The people do not buy that kind of argument. If you want my opinion, and I am sure you do, a big part of the reason you are reduced to two members in the House of Commons is that you tried to make yourselves believe that intelligent Canadians would buy that kind of reasoning.

I was almost shocked. I could not believe the Conservatives would keep on trying it again and again. I plead with members opposite to stop this, because first, you cannot get away with it and the people do not buy it; and, second, it leaves a distorted impression that is absolutely ridiculous.

On motion of Senator Berntson, debate adjourned.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

MARINE SAFETY—COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO EXAMINE ROLE OF LIGHTSTATIONS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Carney, P.C., seconded by the Honourable Senator Kinsella:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine the mandate of the staffed lightstations on the west coast to determine whether their role should be expanded to accommodate the increase in the number of marine users, in light of the expansion in the number of recreational users, keeping marine safety in mind, and the current restructuring of the Canadian Coast Guard; and

That the committee presents its report no later than December 31, 1994.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I am in agreement with Senator Carney. It is a precarious existence to be at sea in a storm. The people navigating a vessel are right to be scared and to worry about automatic devices that do not always work. You might run a large oil tanker on to some rocks and have another *Exxon Valdez*, even though the crew may be sober.

I believe Senator Carney is right. We should ask the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications to look into this matter of manned lightstations.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.
