

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

Question No. 613—**Mr. Howie:**

In (a) the current fiscal year (b) each of the two preceding fiscal years were any persons employed by the Royal Canadian Mint and, if so, how many and, in each case, what amount was allocated for salaries?

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of Supply and Services): I am informed by the Royal Canadian Mint as follows: Yes.

(a) 657 employees, 1983 calendar year: \$19,129,000 (unaudited).

(b) 650 employees, 1982 calendar year: \$18,476,000.

(c) 688 employees, 1981 calendar year: \$17,580,000.

As reported in the annual report, the above figures include, in addition to salaries, allowances and employee benefits.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT—REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES

Question No. 614—**Mr. Howie:**

Does the Royal Canadian Mint perform services or engage in sales to persons or organizations other than the Government or Government agencies and, if so, approximately what percentage of its revenue was derived from such sources in the last fiscal year?

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of Supply and Services): I am informed by the Royal Canadian Mint as follows: Yes.

In 1983 calendar year, 94.9 per cent was derived from sources other than the Canadian Government. In 1982 calendar year, 94.2 per cent was derived from sources other than the Canadian Government.

[English]

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1984-85

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacLaren that Bill C-21, an Act to provide borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on Bill C-21, which calls for federal authority to borrow \$29.5 billion. The Bill places a very heavy responsibility on those of us who serve in Her

Borrowing Authority Act

Majesty's Loyal Opposition. I say this because the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has announced that he will be stepping down and following a leadership convention in June, the Liberal Party will have a new leader and the country will have a new, though temporary, Prime Minister.

This metamorphosis is not too dissimilar from that which occurs when a lobster sheds its shell. He leaves the old shell behind and takes on a new shell which is soft and fragile, so he cannot fill it with his limited body weight. The lobster cannot move for some time, and when he does he lacks direction and co-ordination. It takes a long time for the lobster to fill out his new shell, which is why dealers have a very difficult time selling soft shell lobsters to Canadians. I will stop right there, Mr. Speaker, because, as you will realize, I am speaking about the Liberal Party.

I say this Bill causes us problems in the Official Opposition because the Government's Budget and this borrowing Bill are not likely to be repeated by the new leader of the Liberal Party. Already leadership candidates and potential leaders in the Liberal ranks are making strong statements about government waste and government extravagance.

For example, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro), who has not peaked yet, when speaking at the Liberal biennial policy conference in Ottawa on November 7, 1982, is reported as saying: "The government is wasting millions of dollars by sending monthly pension cheques to wealthy senior citizens and baby bonuses to families who do not need the money. Such funds should be redirected to help the most needy". The Minister does not say what yardstick he would use to define the most needy, nor does he say when, if he became Prime Minister, he would cut out the baby bonus. I think it is important that we get this Liberal Minister on the record, however.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) is reported in *The Toronto Star* of November 3, 1982, as saying: "The current crisis we are living in makes people think much more deeply than they used to about a number of issues and to realize that there are no free lunches and that we cannot plan on the basis that there is a kind of growing federal pie from which everybody can get an increased share. When you see a financial situation where the Government is not getting the revenue that it used to—where the economy is not growing—where public funds have been used extremely sparingly and targeted better than ever before, then you have to ask yourselves questions like this". The Minister did not say where he is going to cut down nor why the economy is not growing, but he makes a mockery of his Party and his Government when he says that public funds have been used extremely sparingly and then earmarks \$1.35 billion to prop up the Government's leading loss maker, namely, Canadair.

Canadair has already shocked taxpayers by its bad management record which has been concealed from Parliament as long as possible. There is no reason to believe that this recent move will do little more than delay the executioner's axe while eating up more tax dollars. If the original owners, General Dynamics, could not run this company despite a substantial