

Borrowing Authority Act

cally elected on February 18, 1980, when the former prime minister decided to call the election when his senseless budget was rejected. This is what they are trying to do. I wish to tell them that we are pleased to see that the members opposite are doing their job, that they are watching us and saying from time to time: You should perhaps do that instead of something else.

That is part of your job, but it is also part of your job to represent your constituents, if you know what that means. It means that when existing legislation obliges the government to borrow to meet its requirements, you also have the duty to approve it, and as quickly as possible. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, I have the impression that hon. members of the opposition live in the past. We still hear them talk about oil taxes, budget cuts, all things which Canadians said at one point they did not want, ever.

We also hear that the government should not be given a blank cheque, but the government is not asking for a blank cheque. It is telling us that the House must give it authority to fulfil its obligations towards the people and in that sense, gentlemen, when you let the debate go on and on, you act as if you were still in power, and you are not. It was a democratic decision that made things the way they are, nothing else, following your actions and those of people who formed your government.

As a new member, I think that is horrifying, Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand. I have trouble grasping all that and putting it into my head at a point in time a responsible member of Parliament comes here to represent his constituents. Follow your reasoning to its logical conclusion, gentlemen.

Assuming a motion for closure is not brought in at some time, and that you keep the debate going, say, until the month of January, 1981, where would the government get the money? Can you tell me that? What about the people of your ridings who are on welfare, get medical care or money for the capital projects under way in Alberta, whether through Petro-Canada or any other way? I am asking you to realize that the government is now asking you to do your job. Let the bill go through as soon as possible so that we can perform our duty to Canadians.

● (1650)

[English]

Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Bill C-30, which has become a very, very important question in the minds of the Canadian public. The hon. member from the other side of the House just said that the people of Canada are not signing a blank cheque. That is true. They are signing a cheque with \$12 billion on it. The government is saying to the people of Canada, "We are not telling you how we are going to spend the money, but we are asking you to pay the bill".

I suggest that the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of this country and the government of the day will be held responsible by our children and our grandchildren for the actions that the government is taking in this House today. We have had 12 years and more of Liberal government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, which has led us in a direction that is socializing this country and turning it into a socialist state, with the help of the NDP members on the extreme left who defeated a good budget and who defeated some direction for this country. That direction would have turned around this excess spending.

What type of direction is this government asking for? What kind of spending has it been doing? There has been excess spending in the form of a Metric Commission. There has been excess spending on many white elephants across the country. We just heard of one in the past few days. Two billion dollars was spent on a complex. It is rather hard for someone from the province of Saskatchewan to think in terms of those figures because that is about the budget of our whole province. We have some concern for our constituencies and for our people because we are asked to share in the responsibility for paying for this type of mismanagement brought upon the people of Canada by the government of the day. Truly it is a blank cheque and more. We have had no direction from the Minister of Finance with regard to what type of budget there will be. We have had no direction in terms of how the spending will be done. All we know is that we must pay the bill.

I think at this time the Canadian people are asking more of government and more of this House of Commons. They are asking for some accountability on the part of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and every member who sits in this House of Commons with regard to the spending done here, in this case \$12 billion.

There has been big government during the Trudeau years and during the Liberal years. Big government spending has gone completely out of control. There has been no consideration given to production. We have lived through an era in which the word "profit" was a bad word and the word "incentive" was completely forgotten. We have given no direction and no incentive to the people who have been paying the bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gustafson: In my constituency of Assiniboia we have very productive people. I imagine every member in this House thinks that his people are productive, but when we analyse how much money is being spent and where it is being spent, it gives me some concern as a member from western Canada.

I would like to relate a couple of examples just in the short term I have been the representative of the constituency of Assiniboia. Under the summer youth employment program it is very interesting to note that the constituency of Assiniboia was allotted by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) \$85,000. I received letters from people from across my constituency whose projects were turned down. The average constituency in Quebec received \$200,000. My people