

*Borrowing Authority*

• (1540)

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** There will be a tax on funerals. Not only will there be a tax on funerals, there will be a tax on reading the will. That is where the Government has taken us.

It is regressive, it is unfair, and the poor in this country will pay much more. The Minister of Finance promises that it will be "revenue neutral". The Minister says that he will not collect any more money than he has already collected. Nobody in the House believes that. Nobody anywhere believes that, and the Minister does not believe it. Once again he is not coming clean with the Canadian people.

The Minister's own Budget documents state that this new tax will provoke an increase in inflation from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent. Every time the Governor of the Bank of Canada feels that old inflationary pressure he will raise interest rates, rates which are already too high. The Minister knows that. He knows that the real interest rate, that is to say the difference between the nominal rate and the rate of inflation, is its highest in 30 years. It is between 8 per cent and 9 per cent in real terms. He knows that the spread between Canadian and U.S. interest rates at 2 per cent to 3 per cent is double its historic level.

He should know that this Budget, combined with high interest rates which this Budget provokes, is a recipe for recession. By waiting so late in the business cycle to put its fiscal house in order, the Government has left itself no room to manoeuvre in the event of an economic slowdown.

[*Translation*]

During their first mandate, the Conservatives have tried to put their own philosophy into practice. They have juggled with the universality aspect of our programs. They have tried to de-index pensions, to restore capital punishment, to limit bilingualism. But, fortunately for all Canadians, the government was weakened by all the scandals it its midst and by its own incompetence.

Through the work of our Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) and other Members in this House who were also actively involved, we were able to avert disaster.

But this time, the situation is much worse. This time, we are faced with a fierce and all-out attack, if not a raid.

The Conservative action plan just got underway and is already bulldozing its way through the country, with no hesitation, no qualms about it. Their philosophy reflected is a cynical and callous political agenda aimed at cutting everything that can help the average Canadians, in order to make room for the market forces which will benefit the rich and powerful among us. This *laissez faire* policy will help large companies to take control of the country. Just too bad for the small people, the weaker and more vulnerable citizens of our country! The Conservative agenda is the law of the jungle. The strongest, the richest and the better-informed people are on top, because all the others are left unprotected.

This is not the country, or the type of freedom that we want, but that is what the Conservatives have in store for us.

[*English*]

The Tory right wing agenda has now been completely unmasked by this Budget. It is *laissez-faire*, let market forces run the country. That *laissez-faire* agenda was reflected in the trade deal, in the Throne Speech, the unemployment insurance cuts and last week's Budget.

There is nothing wrong with business, but the business of business is money. The business of business is profits and that is fine, but the business of politics, the business of public life is people, and the Tories do not distinguish between the two.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I believe in market forces and I believe in competition and enterprise and rewarding success. I have said in the House before and said across the country that Canada would not have been built solely on market forces. We built this country, east and west and north, in order to resist the overwhelming continental market forces dominated by the United States. That is why we built a railway and a pipeline. That is why we built a national airline, national broadcasting system, and a national highway. That is why we built a national system of public and social security.

Pure market forces would not have given us public housing or public transportation or the best health care system in the world. We in this Party have supported all of that and we believe, thereby, in a mixed economy. We believe in private enterprise, but we also believe that the federal Government has a role to play where private enterprise cannot or will not do the job.