

*Borrowing Authority*

4. Contrary to your government's beliefs, separation of western Canada is quite possible if this area continues to be treated as a colony. Keep in mind that western Canadians are psychologically quite different from people in Quebec who have been in the warm, comfortable bosom of the Canadian federal government since confederation. Western Canadians have grown up working and fighting for a better life and the current energy problem will be dealt with with the same vigour and stamina.

5. The fairest and simplest method for the federal government to obtain additional revenues is through a reasonable taxation scheme of company profits.

6. The reckless and uncontrolled expenditures of tax deductible capital in the oil and gas industry whereby commissions are earned according to how much is spent rather than how much is earned should be stopped.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on Bill C-59 entitled an act to provide supplementary borrowing authority. This is a short but frightening bill giving the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) the authority to borrow up to \$14 billion for public works and general purposes through the issue or pledge of securities of Canada at rates of interest or terms and conditions as approved by the governor in council. No other act by this government, except the introduction of this bill, could indicate to Canadian people the truth of the charge levelled against it by the former Auditor General of Canada, Mr. James Macdonell, when he said this government is losing or is close to losing control of the public purse. The bill covers little more than a page and, except for the general purpose clause, gives absolutely no explanation covering the government's intended expenditure of this vast amount of money. One billion dollars is one thousand million dollars; \$14 billion is therefore \$14 thousand million. It is a new horrendous debt load to be placed on the backs of the citizens of this nation, citizens who are already crying out against the excessive tax burdens they must carry as a result of the mismanagement of their affairs by the federal Grits in office under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

The bill claims in its first paragraph to be enacted by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Commons. If only that statement were true; unfortunately it is not. The parliamentary system has become so rigged that the government with a majority in the Commons can ignore all the opposition parties. The first act by the Prime Minister was to change the rules so that his government, his party, could limit debate. Afterwards he boasted about his actions saying we pulled the ground out from under them. Parliament has a completely new set of rules. I think it was Pogo who said, "We have met the enemy and he is us." In this case the "them" to which the Prime Minister referred, is us, and we are the representatives of the Canadian people whose voice is all too often silenced by the majority in this House.

● (1630)

Until the present Prime Minister took power, Canadians were in the habit of trusting their government. So far as provincial and municipal governments are concerned, they probably still do. Banking on this trust, the present Prime Minister was able to change the rules, so that he could set

about changing our society. After the rules were changed, he said:

I have the feeling of a mechanic who is returning a car or something and getting the thing ready to go.

However, he neglected to tell us in which direction he intended us to go. In 1969 he said:

We have to change the constitution to keep it up to date, to give the federal and provincial governments the new rules which are called for in a new society.

Now, some 12 years later, we are gradually getting a glimpse of Mr. Trudeau's new society. Very few Canadians like or approve of what they see.

[Translation]

**Mr. Cousineau:** Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that for some time now—and I do not know whether it is done accidentally or deliberately, or whether it is a small, well-orchestrated campaign—the Prime Minister of Canada has often been referred to by his family name, something which is not allowed in the House under Beauchesne's Citation 319.

**Mr. Pinard:** That is quite true.

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member's point is well taken. It is the custom of the House to refer to individual members by constituency and to members of cabinet by their function or positions in cabinet.

**Mr. Crouse:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the Prime Minister of Canada, but in future I will recognize the custom.

Coming back to the comments I was making, some 12 years later we are gradually getting a glimpse of the Right Hon. Prime Minister's plan for this nation. Many Canadians do not like or approve of what they see. For example, on July 10, 1980, the government forced passage of its authority to borrow \$12 billion in this House. At that time the government refused, just as it is refusing today, to say how the money would be spent. In its budget, October 28, 1980, the government gave itself a blank cheque for at least another \$50 billion. I will explain later on my reason for that statement.

In my opinion the government is seeking far more power than it needs to achieve its stated objectives. The \$12 billion of last June and the \$14 billion of today total \$26 billion. As I stated just a moment ago, the blank cheque the government is seeking could total \$50 billion under the present so-called budget, or an additional \$2,000 from every man, woman and child in the country.

The borrowing proposals of this government are unprecedented in this country's history in their sheer magnitude. Moreover, this massive amount of money will be used at the government's discretion with virtually no public control whatsoever over what is to be done with it. The implications of such enormous and unfettered spending power are so immense that even the terms "horrendous" and "frightening" may well be too mild to describe them.