

Borrowing Authority

want to get rid of them once and for all. We want to do to the Liberals what Lloyd George did to the Liberals in Britain, and that is our plan.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the Hon. Member to tell the Liberals opposite what his policies are. I am asking him to tell the Canadian people what his policies are. My question is this, does the Member agree with the statement of the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) in the House of Commons on April 15, 1980 in which he was against Government spending, or does he agree with the Hon. Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) on January 21, 1983 in which he was for increased Government spending. Which one is it?

Mr. Fennell: Firstly, Mr. Speaker, in this Party we have many different views, and it is a consensus of view that will make us a very effective Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Members' views may vary, but the time period does not. I should call the attention of the House to the fact that speeches from now on are limited to ten minutes, without a question period.

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-143 calls upon this House to approve the borrowing by the Government of Canada of \$19 billion, and represents a culmination of circumstances which have led us to a consideration of an instrument of this nature requiring an added burden being placed upon the taxpayers of Canada, not only those who sit in the House and those elsewhere, but their children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, so long as we can see a line of Canadians who can survive. It is that unfortunate circumstance to which we, I submit, must direct our attention.

It is absolutely true that as we sit here today the nation is in dire need of assistance. We have at least 1.6 million Canadians who are unemployed, and we are told by the Government that under these circumstances it is absolutely essential that we have the tools with which to ease the burden placed upon these unemployed Canadians. They do not of course at the same time say, "And we assume the entire responsibility for the position in which those Canadians find themselves," although, were they honest, they would indeed make that assertion.

What bothers me is that if one casts one's mind back to as recent a date as June of 1981 this House will recall an address by the then Minister of Finance who began his comments by referring to fairness and equity as being the touchstones of the budget which he introduced. Fairness and equity indeed! The entire process was designed to raise \$1.3 billion in additional revenues, and it had as its by-product the disillusionment, distaste and disfavour that flowed through the business community in Canada, coupled with, at that time and still surviving today, an air of complete uncertainty within the Canadian business circle.

One of the things that surely Government should have realized at the very outset was that this uncertainty would breed less production, less development and considerably less

employment in our nation, and yet that entire recognizable and anticipated consequence was ignored by Government.

We now are faced, as I have indicated, with a debt burden load which gives rise directly to the payment of interest on the national debt anticipated, having regard to the Estimates which have been tabled this week, to be \$18.6 billion, a full 20 per cent of all the money spent by Government, not all the money raised by Government through tax revenues but all the money spent by Government. In terms of money actually raised by Government, it is in excess of 25 cents on every dollar, and that surely must shock this House.

This Bill is part of the revenue raising through the borrowing process which will increase the amount that has to be paid for interest on the national debt, as I say, not by this Government and its members, not by Members of the House alone, but by future generations of Canadians yet unborn.

If we can go back to the alleged principles of the budget of June, 1981 and ask ourselves, is it indeed appropriate, is it just and equitable, that this Parliament place a burden on future Canadians of the magnitude that faces us today and that will grow with the days ahead, under this administration?

I fully recognize the need for additional funds to be spent to help offset the terrible social and economic burdens created by unemployment, but I have asked this Government time and time again when it proposes to do something of a concrete nature to solve the problem, and the problem very clearly is a failure to recognize that they have been over-spending.

• (1640)

Let any Member on the Government side stand in his place and say this is what we have done in order to pare our excesses. Let him say that this is what we have done in order to show the people of Canada that there is some hope and expectation for the future that we will come to grips with our lavish expenditures which have characterized our administration from the beginning of time.

I raised this issue in the House on two separate occasions, on July 5, 1982 and again on November 10, 1982. I specifically asked that the estimates be referred to a special committee of the House which would have the specific task of going through them with a fine tooth comb to eliminate those expenditures which ought not to be incurred.

Let me give an illustration of the kind of frivolous expenditures with which we are faced. The cost of the recent advertisements placed by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in various newspapers across Canada to convince Canadians, "that complete energy security in Canada is this close", cost the taxpayers of this nation almost a whole million dollars. One ad run in the newspapers in Canada cost the taxpayers a million dollars. For what useful purpose? There is no useful purpose for that expenditure other than to endeavour to convince the public that its Government is doing a good job. Let the public be convinced by the actual results of the administration, not by a paid campaign to convince the public that it has performed its tasks usefully.