

last night in full session to call six meetings a week to deal with the Bank Act reference which has been made by this House and that the committee has been extremely busy recently in connection with Bill C-7. I did make an undertaking in the committee—and this is really a committee matter—to report back to the next meeting of the steering committee with regard to a reference of the commodity tax matter.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

### BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1978-79

#### MEASURE TO GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING POWER

The House resumed, from Tuesday, November 14, consideration of Bill C-7, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1978-79 and to amend the Financial Administration Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance Trade and Economic Affairs, and the motion of Mr. Stevens.

**Mr. Pinard:** Mr. Speaker, last night at the end of the day's proceedings I had the floor, but in view of today's dilatory tactics by the opposition, I will give others the chance to speak.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** The hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert).

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** I had indicated to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) that he might follow the parliamentary secretary, but when the hon. member resumed his seat nobody got up except the hon. member for Vaudreuil. I have recognized him, but if there is unanimous consent I could go back to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. Is there unanimous consent?

**An hon. Member:** Agreed.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I was on my feet, Mr. Speaker, when the parliamentary secretary sat down. I had no way of knowing he was going to play the shrinking violet and disappear from the debate.

When the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) put his amendment on the order paper, I decided I would not take any part in this debate even though I thought the amendment was somewhat puerile and mischievous to the extent that all it would do would be to confuse the whole situation with respect to Canada Savings Bonds.

### *Borrowing Authority Act*

● (1642)

The hon. member for York-Simcoe used his speech on this amendment yesterday to launch a vitriolic attack upon socialism, on the NDP in particular, and on the things which the New Democratic Party members in the House from 1972 to 1974 supported and to some extent succeeded in having put on the statute books of this country. The hon. member spent a good deal of his time attacking the establishment of Petro-Canada, and particularly the acquisition by that corporation of Pacific Petroleum a few days ago. His speech was reminiscent of the Coolidge and Hoover era. It could have been delivered by Ronald Reagan or a member of the John Birch Society.

I recognize that the official opposition has a compound name. It calls itself the Progressive Conservative party. I have always thought that to be a contradiction in terms, but a party which looks in two directions at the same time is bound to have a left wing and a right wing. Yesterday the hon. member for York-Simcoe demonstrated the genius, which the right wing of the Conservative party has always displayed, of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Whenever they get within sight of taking office, they immediately drop the masquerade of being progressive, and all their reactionary tenets come to the fore. That is what we witnessed yesterday.

The hon. member for York-Simcoe talked about the dangers to this country and to the western world if democratic socialist principles were put into effect. He spoke about how this country would be pushed back to the stage of human history reminiscent of conditions in Calcutta. The trouble with the right wing of the Tory party—and the hon. member for York-Simcoe is the exponent of it—is that it never really understands the people of Canada. Members of the right wing of the Tory party spend so much of their time talking to the bankers and financiers of this country that they think those individuals represent the man on the street, but they do not. The man on the street is not fooled by the “bogey man” of socialism. He is not fooled about the great blessings of free enterprise. He knows perfectly well that in the Scandinavian countries, some of which have had socialist democratic governments for over 40 years, progress has been made.

**Mr. Stevens:** They also have the highest suicide rate.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Only the hon. member for York-Simcoe would believe that fable. If he will take the trouble to look up the figures published by the United Nations, he will find that that is not true, as is the case with many other propaganda figures tossed out by the right wing. He should take the trouble to look at West Germany, which has a social democratic chancellor, a social democratic prime minister, and social democratic government. The economic performance of West Germany far outstrips Canada or the United States.

**Mr. Oberle:** How many Crown corporations are there in West Germany?

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** If he wants to, my friend can speak when I am finished. People are not