

*Supplementary Borrowing Authority*

● (2100)

[English]

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the fifth Borrowing Authority Act to come before this session of Parliament. Since February 18, 1980, this Government has come to the House and asked for money, and so far in this session they have asked for \$47.6 billion. This is an unbelievable sum of money.

**Mr. Deans:** You agreed to it before. You agreed to it in the spring.

**An Hon. Member:** You have the socialists going already.

**Mr. Deans:** But you are a bunch of hypocrites.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** When they took office, Mr. Speaker, this Government came into power with \$5 billion unused borrowing authority. If you take a look at the unused borrowing authority they had, together with the borrowing authority they have taken up because of their—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. Order please. The Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) has the floor.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You cannot help these people on my left; they just do not know where they are at. They think they are in a circus. That is why they interfere in Parliament. Their heckling is not worth a damn. If it was any good I would reply to it, but it is not competent so it is not worth replying to.

**Mr. Deans:** A point of order.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** He is now trying, Mr. Speaker, to get up again, but the truth of the matter is—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Deans:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Hon. Member, in his wisdom, would be prepared to accept a question with regard to the opening comments that he has made?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is the Hon. Member for Mississauga South prepared to accept a question?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** After I have completed my remarks. I would expect from the Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) some reasonable discretion in terms of the kind of heckling that is proper in this House, because proper heckling does something to bring on the quality of remarks and improve a debate; but the kind of heckling we have been getting from the New Democratic Party is a disgrace in this House. It indicates the kind of attitude they bring to this House.

**Mr. Deans:** Why don't you tell us how you agreed to this in the spring? Tell us how you agreed to give them this money in the spring?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Mr. Speaker, I want to go over the various borrowing authority bills that have come before this House in this session of Parliament. The first one, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, was after the budget of April 21, 1980. That was supposed to be an economic statement. That, Mr. Speaker, was when the words of the Auditor General and the Lambert Commission were still fresh in our minds. You will recall that both of those statements indicated clearly to the people of Canada that the Government had lost control of its spending. Therefore, it was important that that borrowing authority be looked at closely. At that time we were spending \$4 for every \$3 we took in taxes. The situation is far worse than that today.

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Sir, there is nothing wrong with borrowing money for capital goods. I think even the New Democratic Party would agree with that. But there is certainly something wrong with borrowing money to pay the grocery bill. What we have had is this Government coming to the people of Canada, to this Parliament, and saying: we want more money because we are going to spend more money, because we are going to spend and spend and spend, without any reference to productivity or building the country. Just spend. That was the beginning of the Borrowing Authority Bills we faced in this Parliament.

The second Bill was as the result of the October 28, 1980 budget. That Bill was for \$14 billion. At that time all Members of this House were concerned. We made several suggestions to the Government. We said that it had better cut down some of its expenses. I myself said that it perhaps should look at the CBC. At that time the CBC, Sir, if you will recall, was spending \$577 million. Now the CBC spends \$737 million, and despite the rulings from the CRTC about CBC-2, it wants to carry on with another expansion program.

We said the Government had to look at its files, its archives, look at the National Capital Commission, look at the museums, look at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Look at the various projects you have. Are they still necessary? Are they still fulfilling the original requirements? But it refused to cut. At that time the Government could have cut its borrowing authority to \$8 billion and could have easily cut a great deal of program activity, but it wanted to spend and spend and spend.

**Mr. Fisher:** What about the revenue guarantee, Don?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Then we went on to the Bill which resulted from that iniquitous budget of November 12, 1981. That is the bill where the Government wanted \$6.6 billion. It said that would cover the current fiscal year. One of the reasons for needing \$6.6 billion was it had blown \$1 billion in overpayment of interest on the 1981 Canada Savings Bond. The Government just wasted \$1 billion. And it continues to waste money.