

politics of punishment" and "a scorched-earth policy" of the Mulroney Government. That is very harsh language and I am not too sure that I would share it in the House, but I do think that the Government should pay attention to the increased alienation among westerners toward their activities.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that this Party is very much opposed to the way Manitoba is being treated in the budgetary process and in the Speech from the Throne and therefore opposes this particular borrowing action.

The West became the country of Conservatives under the leadership of John Diefenbaker. He was very proud of the way he could advocate western interest in the House. Many of the back-benchers in the other benches should be very much appreciative of his effort because that is why they are here. They are a legacy of the Diefenbaker tradition.

If Mr. Diefenbaker were sitting here, I wonder what he would think about the closing of the Port of Churchill, which serves his part of Saskatchewan. I wonder what he would think about the closing of Portage, a community that he supported. What about VIA Rail?

One of the great ironies is that John Diefenbaker went throughout this country campaigning on the back of passenger trains. He would now find that if he wanted to campaign that way that the very friends that he helped get elected and helped establish a base have cut off the trains. He would not even be able to stand in Portage. It will be gone in a few years. He would be standing somewhere in the West, wondering what happened to the trend of his tradition and what happened to his vision of Canada.

**An Hon. Member:** Singing in his grave.

**Mr. Walker:** Absolutely. The Government has abandoned that tradition. It is with a great deal of sadness that the activities of this Government cannot be supported with any conscience by any Member of this House.

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the matter before the House of Commons is Bill C-11 authorizing the borrowing authority for the Government of Canada.

### *Borrowing Authority*

In speaking toward that motion, many Members have gone into a great many other matters, some of them far removed from the borrowing authority. That has caused me to respond to some of the remarks I heard. I particularly want to respond to the remarks made by the Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn), who I understand is the national defence critic for the New Democratic Party.

I want to respond in this way. In the election campaign, year after year prior to that, we heard the members of the New Democratic Party say: "Cut national defence expenditures. If you cut national defence expenditures, you can provide money for child care, you can provide money for hospitals. You can provide money for a variety of social programs if you will only cut national defence expenditures". That was the sermon that was preached by the NDP across this country over the years and over the decades. It is part of their political philosophy to cut national defence expenditures.

**An Hon. Member:** You cut them in the wrong place.

**Mr. Crosby:** Now in the fiscal year of 1989-90, there is a relatively small cut in percentage terms in national defence expenditures. It does amount to \$2.7 billion over an extended period of time.

**An Hon. Member:** We asked you to use a scalpel, not an axe.

**Mr. Crosby:** So who stands up in the House of Commons but members of the New Democratic Party and ask: "What have you done to national defence expenditures? What have you done to our military force in Canada? You have undermined and destroyed our military force". What utter nonsense, Mr. Speaker. Does anybody in Canada actually listen to that diatribe from the New Democratic Party in defence of our nation's military force after they have convinced the Canadian people, with help from the Liberal Party, that we do not need to concentrate on national defence, that we do not need to devote such a large portion of public funds, almost 10 per cent of the national expenditures, to national defence? It is too late for them to come crying to this House and tell us not to cut defence expenditures, keep our Canadian forces bases intact, and keep our weapons moving, and so on.