

Borrowing Authority

Where would any of us end up if we were to conduct our financial affairs that way? Where would the largest company in North America or, for that matter, in the world end up—

An hon. Member: Ask Massey-Ferguson.

Mr. Thomson: In connection with the overruns and major capital projects—and there is a thick file of them which I could go on reciting—I would say the Conservative government, while we were in power, initiated a task force to investigate the means to control to a greater extent this area of government expenditure.

I have to conclude the Liberal government does not consider it important enough to re-establish this committee. Perhaps they would find it too embarrassing.

An hon. Member: There is nothing embarrassing about it.

Mr. Thomson: That is probably true. Then we have the Canadian Unity Information Office, that wonderful government department of which I am sure all Canadians can be proud. The Canadian Unity Information was established as a three-man operation in 1976 with a budget of \$1 million; today that department employs 90 people, and its budget for 1980 was \$10.6 million. The government saw fit to increase the budget of the Canadian Unity Information Office to \$17 million as soon as it took office, so now the budget of the CUIO is \$26.6 million, and its director of finance indicated that its actual spending for this fiscal year will be closer to \$31 million. This money is being spent for political purposes, to promote the interests of the Liberal Party at the expense of Canadian taxpayers. We must make no mistake about that.

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Why do Canadians need their government to tell them that Canada is strong? Do they really need that? Why do Canadians need to pay for Canada geese flying across television screens to identify with their country? It is a ridiculous waste of money, yet the Liberal government says that it cannot trim government spending. We are tightening the belt, we are telling them how to identify with Canada.

They tell Canadians that we have a strong Canada and that we do not have an energy problem when we do. It is a ridiculous and profligate waste of taxpayers' money.

The Canadian Unity Information Office is nothing less than a propaganda machine designed to convince Canadians that Liberal policies are the best policies. This government department is manipulative and designed to support decisions of the Liberal Party. These programs cause more national divisiveness and promote deep mistrust by Canadians of their federal government.

Another example of needless government spending is the acquisition of Canadian Petrofina. The government acquired the company for \$120 a share which just over one year ago was selling its shares at \$50. Over 50 per cent of the assets of Canadian Petrofina are represented in service stations, its Montreal refinery and real estate. The question I should like to

ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, or anyone in authority in the Liberal government is: how come real estate, service stations and a refinery—hardware—can appreciate in value from \$50 to \$120 a share or 150 per cent in one year? Again the Canadian taxpayer ends up footing the bill.

I could find some sympathy for the acquisition if it was adding one drop of oil to Canada's energy security. But no energy security is derived from the acquisition of Petrofina, not one barrel of oil or one cubic foot of gas. It will not do Canadians any good, but they will pay for it at the gas pump. It will place Petrofina in the hands of an inefficient, wasteful organization called Petro-Canada.

If they wanted to reduce the fiscal deficit of about \$15 billion and to reduce this borrowing bill, they could have taken the money they spent on Petrofina. The philosophy of the Liberal government is that the market system will not work and has not worked for Canadians. This country was built on the free market system, but the philosophies of the Liberal party and my friends to the left is that the market system will not work and that private initiative left to itself cannot guarantee prosperity. There is no guarantee of prosperity in this life for anyone. The government cannot guarantee prosperity. If Canadians believe the Liberal government can guarantee prosperity, they are wrong, but the Liberal government can guarantee greater and greater deficits, more and more government spending, and more and more government control over their lives.

Another statement of the Prime Minister was that prosperity must be assured through state planning. The Liberal philosophies are: the market system will not work, private initiative left to itself cannot guarantee prosperity, prosperity must be assured through state planning. This is bureaucratic control and interventionism. The Liberal government believes it knows what is best for everyone, that Canadians are not capable of making decisions for themselves.

I do not think very many members of the Liberal government were exposed to life in business or to working in a business, so they do not understand the work ethic or what makes Sammy run. They have never tried to understand the work ethic. They fail to understand that most Canadians enjoy working and the fruits of their work. It makes them feel good and they have a feeling of accomplishment, but in return they seek a sense of participation and a reward which is commensurate with their input. That is called "incentive". The Liberal government does not understand the meaning of the word "incentive"; it does not understand human motivation, it does not understand what motivates people to build a better mousetrap. Without a system of incentives, people cannot be motivated to be innovative or to develop excellence.

We have all the evidence before us of state-controlled economies, without exception they are dismal failures. We can look at the United Kingdom, Italy, France and Sweden. We can look at the food lines and the people lining up to purchase clothing in Czechoslovakia. Perhaps Czechoslovakia is in a