

Borrowing Authority Act

As for the second part of his question about Atlantic Enterprise, perhaps he was not listening at the time, but I did refer to the program which was announced and which I described as a ghost-ship. I think that the Hon. Member understand quite well what I mean. In view of the limit set to qualify under this program, you would need a loan in excess of \$250,000. Loans are only guaranteed up to 85 per cent. We would have needed a much more extensive program because our region is clearly disadvantaged compared with other regions in Canada.

● (1520)

[English]

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I have a short comment in order to correct the record. The cost of servicing the debt in the past 17 months has gone from \$19 billion up to \$26 billion under the Government. The total national debt, which is the accumulation of debt since Confederation, has jumped from \$180 billion 17 months ago when the Government took over to \$225 billion. Twenty-three per cent of the total national debt was accumulated by the Government in the last 17 months.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to say that questions and comments have now terminated. Debate.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I was not going to comment on this Bill but Bill C-99 seems to have occurred at a very appropriate time. As the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said, it is appropriate that the borrowing Bill is introduced at the same time that the Budget is brought in. This enables us to get the whole picture.

After the Budget came down last Wednesday, I took the Budget home to bed. It was like reading a bedtime Tory. The Budget reads like a fairy story, with its only real substance being the taxes. I wondered what was the ambience or the environment within which this Budget came down.

The Government consulted for months before the Budget was brought down. It is appropriate that the chairman of the board, a man who knows all about closing corporations, and his right-hand chief accountant are the two chief nabobs in the Government. One was president of a company that is noted for laying off workers, the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Schefferville and the other is a tax accountant. Who did they consult? They heard from Mr. Frazee, who I believe is President of the Royal Bank of Canada. They heard from John Bulloch of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, from Roger Hamel of the National Chamber of Commerce, Thomas D'Aquino of BCNI and from Mr. Mulholland of the Bank of Montreal. They are the ones whom the Government was consulting and they were all friends of the Tories. They all said in one chorus: "You have got to cut the deficit. You have got to bring the deficit down".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rodriguez: Their advice was to target the deficit and bring it down. David Lewis of the New Democratic Party

wrote a book entitled, *The Louder Voices*. Theirs were the louder voices and the ones to which the Government was listening.

Did the Government target unemployment? The issue of unemployment appears in the last sentence before the conclusion of the Budget. What does the Government say about unemployment?

Mrs. Mailly: Six hundred thousand jobs.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Government targets it to go from 9.6 per cent to 9 per cent over two years. There will still be well over one million people unemployed in this country when one considers the increase in the workforce. I do not know if those Tories opposite saw *The Journal* last night.

An Hon. Member: And here.

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, and to my left. I cannot imagine a Tory to my left, but there they are. If they saw *The Journal* last night they would have seen a soul wrenching and shocking documentary. I wonder if the Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) or the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) were able to push away their sirloin steaks and champagne to watch that program last night.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: They are the only ones who can afford those things these days. If they had watched they would have seen people who in other years would have had no problem finding and holding a job in this country. If they understood the moral sin of unemployment they would have turned their guns on unemployment. Yet they are openly telling Canadians that unemployment will remain at 9 per cent until the end of 1987. Talk about a heritage for our children; 9 per cent unemployment means that there will be well over a million people unemployed.

One can imagine the draw on social programs as a result of that unemployment, the lost productivity and more important, the lost human lives.

Last night on *The Journal*, one woman who was well qualified but unemployed said that she would rather go to prostitution than go on welfare. We are not talking about a Third World country or the Philippines or Mexico. We are talking about Canada where the Conservative Government brings in a Budget that reaches into the pockets of working men and women and removes billions of dollars and cuts back services without holding any hope or targeting the sin and scourge on the Canadian economic scene.

Mrs. Mailly: We went beyond the target you suggested last time.

Mr. Rodriguez: I hear voices over there, but you will get your chance to make a speech.

I suggest to Hon. Members opposite that words are not enough, that action must be taken. We have heard about all