

Borrowing Authority

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill dealing with Her Majesty in the name of the Government of Canada borrowing \$25 billion, either on the international money markets or internally in Canada.

On behalf of the Canadian Government, this Bill, which by its background and its guarantees, represents a solid tradition of government intervention in the economy for whatever the Government of the day wants. When I talk about solid intervention, it is based on a simple word, trust. Trust has to have consistency. It is ironic that while we debate this Bill related to the Budget itself, and a Bill required to implement the Budget, today we have discovered that we have not been told the whole truth about who knew what and when they knew it regarding the Budget itself. We are asked now to debate a Bill for \$25 billion worth of borrowing, when an RCMP report was referred to selectively in this House by a Minister as he attempted to assure the Canadian people and this House that there had been no criminal activity proven and no one had benefited from, not the one leak, but the two leaks of the Budget.

I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, and I put it to this Chamber, how is it that we can continue with the debate on this Bill and \$25 billion worth of borrowing when the House does not even know the truth about who knew what and when about the Budget that this Bill is related to?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, we are asking Canadians and international financiers to put up money, as they have in the past, on the basis of a consistently good record of the Canadian Government regardless of the political strife. In this instance, this Bill goes forward under a cloud. The cloud over this Bill is a simple fact of confusion, misinformation and indeed direct lies about who knew what and when. How can we go ahead with a Bill when that hangs over us? The honourable thing for the Government to do would be to amend the order of debate, pull this Bill off the Order Paper and ensure that everybody who may borrow money from this Government knows that their interest rates, their securities are guaranteed and that no one had an unfair advantage.

To ensure that atmosphere around it, the Minister chose to leak a portion of the RCMP report to leave the impression that no one has made any money as a result of that leak. How do we know that, Mr. Speaker? We

have not seen the report. We did not get answers as to when the Government knew of the leak, and we have not seen any whit of that report.

I cannot in good conscience, Mr. Speaker, participate in a debate that has become a sham and part of a cover-up by a Government that is not telling the truth to the Canadian people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I watched a similar debate in this House during the Sinc Steven's affair. I thought this Government had learned a lesson, but it has not. I for one am not going to sit through another cover-up. I do not see how we can continue with this Bill until we are told the full truth.

Therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Call in the Members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Barrett) which was negated on the following division:

(Division No. 17)

YEAS

Members

Anawak	Assad
Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing)	Barrett
Bevilacqua	Blackburn (Brant)
Blondin	Boudria
Broadbent	Butland
Caccia	Campbell (South West Nova)
Catterall	Comuzzi
Copps	Crawford
de Jong	Ferguson
Fisher	Flis
Fulton	Funk