

*Borrowing Authority Act*

This very House has adopted, as recently as last week, measures which will increase that deficit, precisely to assist people receiving the guaranteed income supplement and the hon. member was supportive of it.

Certainly we were supportive of a guaranteed income supplement increase. However, the Prime Minister in his campaign told us it was coming from increased corporation taxes. Now he is telling us he is going to deficit finance—another flip-flop, another broken campaign promise.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) in his "bootleg budget", as the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) would say, said "Our latest forecast is that the economy will grow by one half of one per cent, which actually means no growth." Why then should the government need \$12 billion? This question remains unanswered. The minister also stated that "government expenditures on goods and services will continue to be affected by policies of expenditure restraint." I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what kind of restraint is this? If the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are to be believed there is no need for an increase in government spending this year. In fact, however, spending this year under the Liberals will increase by a whopping 13.5 per cent. Asking Parliament to approve borrowing authority for \$12 billion without bringing forward a proper budget is an abuse of Parliament, not the first such incident, and as long as this government is in power I am sure it will not be the last. It is an attempt, as we have seen so often in the past, to operate in secret and keep the facts about the public purse from the country. We are left in the dark as to their conception of the future of Canada and what plans they may have to guide the country over the next few years. It represents a disastrous deepening of the debt already placed on the shoulders of Canadians. It is an horrendous imposition upon future generations of Canadians. Do hon. members opposite not have the integrity to bring down a budget in line with proper parliamentary procedure and allow it to be debated in this House, thus giving the Canadian people a chance to judge the legacy which is to be left to the youth of this country—nothing but unpaid bills. We shall have to pass the torch to the young people of this country to carry on but I am worried as to whether they will be able to carry it because it is going to be so heavy with debt—\$84 billion if we approve this thing.

● (2100)

**An hon. Member:** Assuming they do not use the existing authority.

**Mr. McDermid:** That is assuming they do not use the existing \$2.9 billion and all the money they can get from savings bonds.

Since the opening of this session the Liberal government has really not put forward any legislative proposals to improve the economic climate and this includes the new "employment program" that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) announced. We have seen nothing but the usual fillers and housekeeping measures and now we have this one-page bill before us, a bill which will do nothing but saddle our children with overbearing debt. And members opposite

wonder why the people of Canada become a little cynical about parliamentarians when they take a look at one sheet of paper and it calls for \$12 billion. Why is it they require this money so urgently? Do they intend to wait that long before presenting the House and the country with a budget? It looks like it. We shall be in dire financial difficulties if we fail to give the country the economic direction which is so sorely needed. Bill C-30 asks the House to approve borrowing authority for \$12 billion as well as authority to borrow the remaining portion of the amount authorized in days gone by. I understand this would be around \$2.9 billion if the figures are correct.

In his statement of April 21, the Minister of Finance projected that expenditures for 1980-81 would require \$11,730 million. These figures are based on the current revenue-expenditure structure—we are not sure exactly what that structure is. I am sure the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) over there is scratching his head, wondering the same thing. He also stated that these figures did not reflect foreign exchange transactions which resulted in a requirement of \$222 million in the fiscal year 1979-80.

**An hon. Member:** That went down the sewer.

**Mr. McDermid:** How much will the authority asked for to repay loans in foreign currencies cost the Canadian people? I had the privilege recently of crossing Canada and fulfilling speaking engagements at youth gatherings.

**Mr. Regan:** They voted Liberal!

**Mr. McDermid:** They listened. Let me tell the minister something. I was out in Alberta the same time as he was. His convention was held in a phone booth and he rented out the extra space. Our meeting was held in a hotel and we had a jam. I will tell you another thing. The boys from Ontario didn't go out there and "knock" any of the premiers out west like you did, either. You did a great job for national unity out there.

**An hon. Member:** Address the Chair!

**Mr. McDermid:** Let me get back to the young people. I had the pleasure of discussing their concerns across this country of ours and they are asking: why don't you people pay your bills; why are you putting them all together and packing them into a debt and passing them on for us to pay down the road; why don't you pay when you fill up your car, why don't you pay what it's costing you; why should I pay your gas bills? That is a legitimate question and I want to know why the minister of energy doesn't answer the youth of Canada when they ask that question. Why isn't the government paying what it costs? Everybody is willing to pay their share. We are subsidizing it now to the tune of \$3.4 billion, or whatever it is, and it is growing every year and his blender has broken down, he can't get the darned thing to run.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, come on!