

*Supplementary Borrowing Authority*

Conservative view, when we moved slightly toward fairness. That was the root of all evil, as far as the Progressive Conservative Party is concerned, when we tried to have a progressive tax policy in this country. They knew then that the Liberals were straying far from the corporate home. The Carter Commission recommended that for tax purposes all income be treated equally, that the rule for tax policy, as was said at the time, should be "a buck is a buck is a buck". The Benson proposals were only a pale imitation of the Carter proposals. Incidentally, he was not appointed by some left-wing conspiracy, but, rather, was appointed by John George Diefenbaker. Yet yesterday the current Conservative finance critic cited the Benson reforms as a beginning of the policies he and his Progressive Conservative colleagues warned against, leaving one to wonder why they just do not drop the word "Progressive" from their title and be honest about themselves.

The Conservative Party is the faithful brother in the story about the prodigal twin. I predict that the Conservatives will be increasingly unhappy with the way in which the Liberal Party will be welcomed back into the fold which, as I have said, it only strayed away from in the mildest of ways. But such is the pettiness of the corporate elite in this country that it should retaliate for even the least transgression.

Who is the fatted calf? The fatted calf is the Canadian public, and the celebration will no doubt be great in the coming days when Liberals and Conservatives sit down in private, with the blessing and in the company of their corporate father figures, to dine on the lives and expectations of pensioners, mothers, workers, the sick, the unemployed and everyone who, unlike the powerful friends of the Liberals and Conservatives, pay his or her fair share in this country.

We are caught, Mr. Speaker, in the middle of an economic recession which has dimensions going beyond our borders to the very nature of the international economic order which has been in place since World War II. This global recession and the concurrent restructuring of western capitalism, which is both cause and result of the global recession, is difficult enough for all countries, but it has been doubly difficult for those countries like Canada where there have not been governments committed to national economic planning in the public interest. Instead, we have governments and official oppositions, the Conservatives in this case, who would persistently rely on privately made, unaccountable and unco-ordinated corporate investment decisions as the central dynamic of our economy. This, as I have argued, is exactly what the Liberals and Conservatives would have us do. Nothing could be clearer.

Of course, Canada is being triply hurt by the fact that we are not really masters of our own economic house but are an economic colony of the United States, thanks to the Liberal and Conservative sell-out over the years. Therefore, we are not just at the mercy of corporate self-centred decision making, per se; we are also at the mercy of foreign-owned corporate decision making. In this sense, any government which is not actively pursuing real Canadian control, both public and

private, over our economy is only fooling itself and the Canadian people when it speaks of having an economic strategy for the country, for without this commitment, the only strategy left is the one which the Liberals have just admitted. They have had it for a while. It is the one which the Conservatives have been asking for, pleading for, all along. It is the strategy of total capitulation to the needs and interests of the investment community, both domestic and international, in the hope that if we are nice enough to them, businesses will still invest in Canada and not go elsewhere. Money, you see Mr. Speaker, knows no borders nor loyalty to community. It is amoral at best and immoral at worst. Those who worship it enough to think of moving out of this country in order to get more of it when they already have lots, whether it be businessmen thinking of relocating in the United States, in New Jersey or wherever, or doctors moving to Texas, are not, in my view, true members of the community, and all I can say is: good riddance. They have cut their ties with home and hearth and made themselves part of that meaningless and morally impoverished pursuit which is the disease of our age.

Yet these are just the values that the Liberals and Conservatives would have us cater to.

The Liberals and Conservatives together regard the investment decisions of the private sector as morally neutral and above criticism, as simply a fact, like the weather, which has to be contended with by the public and by government, who can influence the behaviour of these decisions but must never judge these decisions. Thus, we will hear from the Liberals and the Conservatives criticisms of labour productivity, criticisms of social programs, for instance, but we will never hear them criticize the corporations for investing precious capital, which could have been used to create jobs, in takeovers which promise no new jobs and which only further concentrate power in the hands of a few. We never hear criticism or a judgment of those who took vast amounts of money out of productivity and put it to unproductive rest, collecting high interest rates during the recent extremely high interest rate period. We never heard criticism of that. All we heard and all we still hear is criticism of workers, civil servants, unions, peace activists and environmentalists, but we never even hear a word of criticism about investment decisions and their social usefulness or their productivity.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Hon. Member would permit a question at the conclusion of his remarks on the opinions he just expressed concerning investment.

**Mr. Blaikie:** At the end of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to entertain a question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Thank you.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Investors are free to do whatever they want, in the name of freedom, whether to invest in transportation or in trivia, thus corrupting the name of freedom and damaging the future of this country and of the human community. As far as I am concerned, that is not freedom, it is just plain licence.