

Borrowing Authority

In order to have a fair tax system, it is necessary to tax the corporations. Only then will there be some equity in society.

The Government has the authority to impose regulations when big corporations get out of control, and certainly, with federal-provincial co-operation, that must be done in the best interests of the country when it is required.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-11 is a bill which, in short, allows the Government to borrow up to \$24.8 billion. It is worrisome, Mr. Speaker, to authorize the Government to borrow such amounts when we see how the Conservative Government is managing now.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months, I have noted some problem areas that cause Canadians concern—great concern. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to relate some of these problems that are now surfacing and that cause us real concern.

I am pleased to note that the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Loiselle) is here. I hope that he will be able to make some recommendations to his Government.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, the Government was looking for about \$500,000 to complete the fountains at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in my riding of Hull—Aylmer.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that this contract was awarded by the Government of Canada in late 1983 or early 1984. The Canadian Museum of Civilization was to cost approximately \$90 million, according to estimates at the time. From the figures and estimates that we have today, Mr. Speaker, we learn that the Museum of Civilization will cost nearly \$300 million, which is more than three times the estimates the Government agreed to in 1983.

What is worse, Mr. Speaker, is that after building this magnificent structure that was to open at the end of June, they had fountains installed at a cost of \$5 million. Only a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, we heard that unfortunately, the fountains facing Laurier Street will not be operational when the Canadian Museum of Civilization is opened, because apparently, the Government has no money left to finish its museum project and

is now asking, not the City of Hull but private companies to pay the cost of finishing the fountains.

• (1610)

Mr. Speaker, I think it is absurd that in order to finish a museum of this stature, the Government uses money from private companies without first calling for tenders.

I think there are some very serious questions that should be asked, and I think this warrants some serious discussion. I hope that my fellow Members, especially Members opposite from Québec, will pay special attention to an item that appeared in the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in April which concerns among other things the Transport Canada building. The issue has been brought up a number of times, Mr. Speaker, and I think we have given it a great deal of thought. Just a few weeks ago, a parliamentary committee asked the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mazankowski) about this question.

Once again, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to its spending on Public Works. The Government claimed capital costs totalling \$200 million on page 26 of the Budget of the Minister of Finance, and I have to tell the Government that is just not true. There is no capital cost involved in construction or eventual construction for Transport Canada, for which the federal Government had called tenders and had received them in December 1988. We know, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Public Works told us last week, that the lowest tender was \$234 per square metre. All it takes is a pencil to figure it out, but if you find a saving in the construction cost for the Transport Canada building, I apologize to the House.

However, the Minister of Public Works informed us that his Government has decided to stay at Place de Ville in the Campeau building, at a cost of \$315 per square metre, as of 1992, for a period of seven years, while the lowest tender was \$234 per square metre, which is \$81 per square metre less, or \$7 million less per year. And when we consider that to stay in Place de Ville, the Government must be prepared to pay the full cost of removing asbestos panels, more than \$50 million, plus the cost of repairing the heating system and other costs that may exceed \$60 million. When that kind of licence is given, Mr. Speaker, I think the Official Opposition has reason to be concerned and, in fact, has a duty to be