

Borrowing Authority Act

the case, that the "have" provinces are able to make medicare available with other features to their people, and to the more hard pressed provinces in the maritimes this is not possible. It is equally true in the field of education and in many other areas, that if you are going to have equality of opportunity, that equality should not end at the frontiers of the central provinces.

The minister is asking for the right to borrow \$12 billion during the course of the year. The bill specifies that this is for public works and other purposes. I can only give you the description in the bill, which is not as hon. members opposite describe it. But I want to say that this party does not tend to balance the budget or reduce the deficit by cutting back our social programs to the degree that they would be outmoded and, in fact, unfair to most Canadians.

● (1650)

In conclusion, I would just say that it is time members opposite remember the election is over. When they are tracing the course of events leading up to today, they should start earlier, or not skip from December to today. They should remember that on February 18, after listening to their arguments as to the irrationality of the opposition for two months, the people of Canada had an opportunity to evaluate the programs of both parties. Perhaps they came to the conclusion that there was very little difference between the two programs of the parties. The main difference that I would agree to is the application.

I should like to come back to one example of many, that is, the increase in the excise sales tax in order to conserve energy and provide needed funds to help middle-class people with their mortgages. I cannot quarrel too much with that objective, but I quarrel with the application because, as usual, it wreaked the greatest hardships on farmers, disabled people, people dependent on public transportation, fishermen, and people less able to protect themselves. On election day everybody is equal in the country. The will of the people was that we have a change of government, after listening to the eloquent persuasion of the minister of finance and prime minister of the day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. Before I recognize the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson), I should like to deal with the late show for this evening.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—External Affairs—Soviet Union—Reported reinstatement of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges; the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Jelinek)—Metrication—Economic development programs to improve employment in automobile industry; the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo)—Canadian Wheat Board—Losses to farmers due to U.S. embargo on grain to U.S.S.R.—Government policy.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1980-81

SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING AUTHORITY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-30, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1980-81, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, we have all been entertained by the fatherly advice of the peripatetic hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey). I am sorry he had to leave so soon because I would have liked to comment on some of the things he brought to our attention. One important observation he made was that after a certain progression of government policy, as the French describe it, we mix water and wine. That is one of the principal messages I should like to leave with the House today. When we have had over a long period of time the government policies that have been followed since 1968—and going back even prior to that—the result is that we are mixing water and wine. We are getting a diluted product which, in the illustration of the hon. member for Lincoln, was bad wine. Also we have bad dollars because the dollars today are worth less than half what they were back in 1968 when the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) first took office.

I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate on Bill C-30 to provide the government with the borrowing authority to raise \$12 billion. This is a very, very important debate. Passage of the bill will provide the government with the opportunity to continue its programs for the balance of this fiscal year. The shocking part of it is that we know nothing about these programs. That is the key message which members