

because they reduced their borrowing authority request by a number of billions of dollars, to \$12 billion. This is provided for 1985-86 in order to carry us through until after the budget which will come down some time in April and to carry us through while the Budget is being debated so that we have the necessary funds with which to operate in government.

I was very interested in some of the debate today. We just heard the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) roll through on his little pink wagon. I was surprised to learn today that the NDP is now consulting with the money giants in New York. That is quite a turnaround. Normally members of that Party would not talk to them or listen to them. Suddenly they are consulting with them. I do not know what they would be consulting about. I am not sure they would take any of their advice. However, it was certainly refreshing to hear it. I hope they will continue doing so, because perhaps they will learn something.

I listened today to the Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone). I was pleased to learn today that the Liberal Government is carrying its tradition of not consulting with the Canadian people—

Mr. Boudria: You are the Government; we are not.

Mr. McDermid: —and running roughshod over the people of the country.

Ms. Copps: You are the Government, John.

Mr. McDermid: That is exactly why they are not in office today. It was because they did that. They said that they knew better than anyone and said what they were going to do. They forget about consultations. She said it today in the House in Question Period. She said, "Forget consultations". They do not ask Canadian people what they want; they just do it.

Ms. Copps: Students want jobs.

Mr. McDermid: That is exactly what the debate is about today.

Mr. Marchi: Whom did you consult?

Mr. McDermid: This Government, led by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), is committed to consultation with Canadians. That is what is going on right now.

Mr. Gauthier: On the cuts?

Mr. McDermid: This will continue through the life of this Government. I might add that it will be around here for a very long period of time.

Mr. McKenzie: For 40 years.

Mr. McDermid: That is right. We will emulate my provincial cousins in Ontario. I will not be around here to celebrate our forty-first anniversary of being in power. Neither will the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps).

Ms. Copps: Speak for yourself.

Borrowing Authority

Mr. McDermid: We will probably be retired by then and in our rocking chairs.

Mr. Boudria: We will retire you in the next election.

Mr. McDermid: I know she will be retired. Probably after the next election she will be retired. That is what will probably happen in Hamilton East.

Ms. Copps: What happened to your candidate in Hamilton East?

Mr. McDermid: It will be either that or she will go back to the Ontario Legislature and run for the leadership again, because their Leader there is in very bad trouble right now. I am sure that is what will happen.

Ms. Copps: We know Frank Miller has a problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I ask the Hon. Member to speak either on the borrowing Bill or on the universality issue, please.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I thought I was doing so, because part of the reason we have to borrow money is to pay the salary of the Hon. Member for Hamilton East. I think I can refer to her here. I think that is fair.

An Hon. Member: You should borrow some credibility.

Mr. McDermid: Over the last few weeks we in the House have seen a phoney issue raised. They read polls as well as we do. They know that the Leader of their Party is lower in popularity than the undecided in the country. We know that they got together at caucus a week and a half ago and said, "Nobody knows the guy is alive". He is down to 11 per cent now. That is just his relevance. They knew they had to make an issue in the House, so they decided to scare the hell out of the old folks in Canada. They knew that would get their attention, so they raised this phoney issue. It is a phoney issue, but they wanted some publicity for their Leader. Then members of the NDP said, "Wait a minute, we had better get on the bandwagon too". Their Leader was holding his own at 20 per cent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I ask the Hon. Member to be relevant.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to question your authority, but I sat in the House and listened to a debate on universality today. That is what I am talking about, this phoney issue which they raised to scare or frighten people in Canada.

Ms. Copps: What about your back-benchers, your bookends?

Mr. McDermid: The Opposition raised the issue.

Ms. Copps: Yesterday in the House of Commons your own Members questioned you.