

Borrowing Authority Act

energy question could crystallize around this Western Separatist Party. I do not mean to be an alarmist. I just mean to say to you, Mr. Speaker, as a member who has come down here to try to do my best for my constituents, that they feel very strongly about that.

An hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thacker: Sir, can you imagine what might have been during the last ten years if we had had a government that faced reality? Governments should throw up proposals that they believe the people need and, coincident with those proposals, there should be a taxing plan so that the people can assess the programs, assess the tax, and decide whether they want the programs. If they do not want the programs they do not get faced with the taxes. If that had happened I think the people would still have chosen medicare, they would still have chosen to have a Canada Assistance Plan. But they would have been prepared to pay for it as it grew, and we could have had reasonable tax increases over the last few years which would not have hurt us much as individuals and we would not be saddled today with this huge deficit. Governments learn by unscrupulous ways to raise money from the prairie people to whom they are proposing the programs, but not a corresponding tax. So these people are really paying for the program, but they do not realize it. What is unfair is that only certain people are paying for the program.

The Government of Canada owes approximately \$16 billion of its deficit to the Canadian people and institutions by way of Canada Saving Bonds. We owe approximately \$18 billion as a deficit by way of treasury bills, and I think we owe about \$47 billion to the general public. That is money that is owing to the Canadian people. If it cannot be paid, what is the alternative of the government? I presume its alternative is to have to cancel the debt so that the people of Canada or some of the people of Canada are going to pay, and it is going to have to be by expropriation.

● (2140)

When OPEC increased its prices, had the government levelled with the people of Canada and increased those prices on a reasonable basis as did Japan and Germany—and they still have the strongest economies in the world—we could be right up there as a world leader. We would not be 23 million people sitting on the assets of half a continent and yet going to the international community with our hat in our hand for 450,000 barrels of oil a day. It is absolutely immoral that we as Canadian people are into the international oil market when countries without a drop of oil such as Japan and Germany surely have a prior claim. The developing countries of the world have a prior claim. We should not be where we are in terms of having to import oil. We should be a leader in that respect.

I could speak for a great deal of time, but I want to give other hon. members a chance, and I want to make a plea, mostly to hon. members opposite, that they think very carefully before they make any precipitous moves in the energy field

because the depth of feeling in the west is tremendously deep and solid on that issue.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Kempling: On division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved that Bill C-3, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): When shall the bill be read the third time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Axworthy moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

[*Translation*]

Mr. Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria.

Mr. Corbin: Mr. Speaker, when you put the question, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) was not in the House and the government members passed the motion. I do not see how the hon. member for Winnipeg North can be recognized since he was not even in this House when the question was put.