

Borrowing Authority Act

figures are sliding up as each month goes by. The Government does not effectively have a handle on the job-creation program principally because it is not investing enough money in job training and retraining for permanent and meaningful jobs. It is simply sticking its finger in the dike, hoping to hold back the flood waters, hoping to hold down the total figure of unemployment until it can get the next election out of the way.

We are not training our young people, in particular, for high technology jobs. Obviously, there will not be enough high technology jobs for everyone who is unemployed, but certainly the Government is not making the same effort which is being made, for example, in countries like Japan, West Germany, France and even the United Kingdom. The Government says let the private sector do it. The private sector, which is the engine of recovery, is now holding back on investments and on job creation because it is very frightened of what lurks around the next corner as far as the economy is concerned.

One area which my colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton), mentioned a few moments ago is renewable resources such as reforestation. It is a tragedy that in this country, where we depend so heavily on forestry as a major industry, the Government is doing virtually nothing itself, or to force the provinces, for that matter, to reforest our country. We are destroying our forests and apparently the Government cares very little about husbanding those resources for the future. We could be investing hundreds of millions of dollars, even billions of dollars, for a future return instead of simply throwing money away and seeing it disappear.

● (1230)

A lot of us, Mr. Speaker, and I am including myself, have to be reminded from time to time of why things have got out of whack in the western world, particularly in North America. Massive deficit spending has become the order of the day. My Conservative friends say that is not Conservatism; Conservatives would have balanced budgets eventually. It is the Liberal-Social Democratic philosophy in North America which has led to these massive deficits; it believes in irresponsible spending, spending our way out of recessions and depressions and so on. But it is interesting to note that the only provincial government in this country which consistently balanced its budget in the 1970s was turfed out by the people. That was the NDP Government in Saskatchewan. When the Tories came in, for the first time in seven years, I believe it was, Saskatchewan went into deficit financing. For the last two years they have been running a deficit of about \$250 million, which is a lot of money for a small province like that.

However, what got us started first of all was the Vietnam War. The United States had no business getting involved in that country in the first place, for a variety of reasons which I will not go into now with hindsight. But at the time my Party at least stood up against that intervention when many other Parties in this House refused to. That war cost a lot of money. Wars are never successful financially regardless of what the short term might bring. They are devastating to economies, whether you win or lose. In fact, World War II proved that if

you lost you were a heck of a lot better off than if you won. The cost of that war was inestimable, but instead of putting on post-war controls, Lyndon Johnson said we could have guns and butter. But we could not, and what followed was the great inflation. That was followed by the great recession.

Another great Conservative then came into office in the White House saying he would bring down the deficit and balance the books as a true Conservative should. Then President Reagan turned around and ran the deficit up to \$180 billion in the U.S. That great Conservative, that man who wants to practise fiscal responsibility, the man who our Conservative Party worships, is the one who drove the U.S. treasury almost into bankruptcy. We are paying for it in this country as well as the ordinary American in the U.S. Let us not forget that when you practise monetarism and you have only a limited pool of financial resources, then interest rates are going to start flying high again. That is what is beginning to happen in the U.S. and that is what is happening now in Canada.

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Mr. Speaker, since this debate was initiated by the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. MacLaren) on March 7, some ten working days have passed. Ten working days—another \$1 billion in borrowed money added to our national debt. That is the rate at which we are spending more than we earn in this country. Yet the Minister is asking us to approve in Bill C-21 not just the outrageous and unprecedented sum of \$25.5 billion, but an additional \$4 billion. At \$100 million a day that is another 40 days in the wilderness.

I have followed this debate closely, both in the House and in *Hansard*. Hon. Members opposite have put a brave face on it as they have sought to defend yet another page added to the volumes of mismanagement and incompetence which are the written record of this Government—written in ink as red as the ties of the candidates for leadership of their once proud Party. But their defence is in vain. There can be no defence of this Government's policies. Yet speaker after speaker has trotted out the same incredible statements of how well they have responded to the recession they created. They have trotted out a catalogue of good deeds and progress towards economic recovery. The Minister declared in his speech:

The Budget of last month gives Canadians every good reason to expect that economic recovery will be followed by solid expansion.

The only expansion I can see, Mr. Speaker, is our national debt, an expansion of over \$114 billion in the next five years. That is the sum of the Government's projected financial requirements, \$114 billion. Yet we are told economic recovery is assured. Private enterprise will lead the way in creating new jobs. Private enterprise will introduce new world-competitive products that will win us exports and fuel an expansion of the domestic market.

"A principal point in our strategy to facilitate a sustained expansion is policies to promote business investment": so said the Minister just 12 days ago. I wonder if he realizes that as long as the Government keeps drawing huge sums from the investment pool there will be no promotion of business invest-