

Borrowing Authority Act

That is why we are committed to a principle of a charitable tax credit, to a tax environment which will offer equitable incentives. Give and take is on the agenda.

The Minister said that give and take was on the agenda along with the other statements I cited so far in a speech addressed to no less than the National Voluntary Organization convention. That was before the Tories were elected. The present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) also, before the election, promised to the National Voluntary Organization and the 52,000 voluntary organizations, that is charitable organizations, churches, community organizations, the following:

● (1740)

We are committed to implementing a tax credit equal to a percentage of donations made to registered charities.

Those are the words of the Prime Minister himself. Is it any accident that the Prime Minister has done nothing to fulfil this promise? We know that he has done nothing to fulfil this promise because we have already received from his Government one set of financial statements, two Budgets, and two sets of Estimates. The Government has had plenty of time to honour what the Prime Minister and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) solemnly promised just before the election that they would do if they came to power. They said it was logical to bring in the give-and-make proposal because it would help create jobs and save money, two admirable objectives.

Because nothing is done to increase the level of charitable donations by widening the potential number of contributors and the size of their gifts, the voluntary sector is now less and less able to assume responsibilities for social work and the serving of social needs. This means either increased Government programs, which will cost the taxpayer money, or less adequate or deteriorating services for the community. It seems to me that the latter is what we are in for. The vital area for job creation in the voluntary sector will soon be lost to the young people of our country. Another door will have been slammed closed because of Tory policies and this Tory Budget.

One can get a sense of the way in which the Tory mind works when we see what they have done to Katimavik. For nine years this organization has proven its mettle. It establishes relationships between human beings, edifies young peoples' concepts of citizenship, and gives them a chance to understand one another's linguistic backgrounds through exchanges between Francophone and Anglophone peoples. Yet, the Government has taken the axe to this program in the name of youth employment. For God's sake, there is more than just employment involved in Katimavik. It involves character and citizenship and goes beyond the question of employment.

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the motion being debated at the moment is one for a six-month hoist of the Government's Bill to borrow the astounding sum of \$22.6 billion. In considering this measure and the grave and far-reaching implications which it has for the Canadian economy, I would like to remind Hon. Members

of the disgraceful antics which we saw last year attendant upon this very same legislation.

My purpose in rising is not to criticize the borrowing of money either on grounds of principle or on pragmatic grounds, nor even to state that this is something which should or should not be done. Rather, my purpose is to look at the way in which money is borrowed and the purposes for which it is used. Last year, to remind Hon. Members, we had a charade in which that non-elected body that sits like a canker at the very heart of our democratic society—I refer, of course, to the Senate—decided, in some flight of fancy, that it might some legitimacy within Canadian society and some relevance to the processes of democratic Government. It took it upon itself to delay the Government's borrowing Bill for 1985.

That was an historic abuse of what passes in this country for power. It was an historic abuse which was encouraged, I very much regret to say, even by some elected members of the Liberal Party of Canada who sit in this Chamber. I believe that the use of the Red Chamber in the obstruction of last year's Government borrowing Bill, whatever we might think of the legitimacy of the purposes, the relevancy of the exercise, and the appropriateness of the amount, was something that we would not hope to see repeated and something to which the Government and the House could put an end forever if it were to abolish the Senate. We spent approximately \$27 million on the Senate last year. It is true that in the context of \$22.6 billion that is not a very large sum, but nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, a sum which could have been saved.

I could instance some other ways in which sums could be saved in order to reduce the amount of \$22.6 billion which the Government proposes to borrow to a sum which we might find a little more reasonable. I am referring, of course, to that great pork barrel orgy, that great swilling in the sky, which the Progressive Conservative Government instituted when it came to office in September of 1984. At that time, in both quantity and expense, the Canadian people saw an unprecedented expansion of ministerial staffs. There was a totally uncalled for recruitment of hacks, flacks, and bagmen to positions which now paid up to \$80,000, sums which could only be dreamed of in the previous administration, except, of course, by those who were privileged and fortunate enough to hold more than one post.

To give it credit, the present Government decided to go the high road and make this blatant patronage orgy at least something which those of us who were scrutinizing the accounts and reading the reports of recruitment could see with our own two eyes. Ministerial expansion went hog wild in 1984, and we have not seen any restraint introduced in that area of government operations since. As an example, there is one ministry in the Government, which I do not propose to name, which is known to every Member of the House, which has no programs—

Mr. Marchi: Go ahead.

Mr. Parry: My colleague, the Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Marchi), encourages me to go ahead, and I