

Borrowing Authority

that, it has prevented our young people from getting the training needed.

I know, coming from the City of Edmonton, that you, Mr. Speaker, would know that every so often we have this great demand by industry to bring in trades people from England, France or other countries because we have not trained our own people. When you see, as this Budget does, another measure which restricts funding for our own universities and community colleges, in two or three years from now we will have a dilemma. We will not have the trades people we need, we will not have the educated people we need nor will we have the scientists to develop jobs and our technology for Canadians.

I realize that my time is finished, Mr. Speaker, but if I can beg the indulgence of the House to speak for one minute. There are a number of concerns of Manitobans surrounding regional development. There is the cut-back for VIA, the fuel tax, the cut-back in tourist marketing and the fact that corporate taxes have not been increased to provide that funding. People in Manitoba do not like this Budget. You can see what is happening in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. The provincial Government in Manitoba is afraid to call an election because the federal Government is so unpopular as a result of the nature and issues in this Budget.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to Bill C-14, the Borrowing Bill in the vernacular. This Government is into its second mandate.

Are you addressing me, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): No, I was not addressing the Hon. Member. There are no questions or comments. Under Standing Order 74 we are now in the period for 10 minute speeches. The Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn) was waving to be recognized for a question or comment, and I just wanted to advise him that there are no questions or comments, just 10 minute speeches.

The Hon. Member for Mount Royal has the floor.

Mrs. Finestone: I presume, therefore, that that interjection will not cut my time, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Absolutely not.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, the Government is into its second mandate. In the cultural area this Government has had the benefit of advice from many task forces at a cost of nearly \$9 million. With all of this experience behind it, with all of this time and effort it has spent, with all the Government's so-called consultations and with all of the Government's so-called standing committee work to which it was supposedly committed to listen, I believe that the Government has had no excuse for delay in facing its full responsibilities in the area of communications and culture, an area which is so important to the development of our national identity. The Government should have understood that money alone does not replace good, sound public policy. However, policy wrapped in pretty words and fancy wrapping is only rhetoric if all the necessary means to reach the expressed goals are not in place. Needless to say, financing is part of that application.

Canada's cultural community is really disheartened and, in some instances, will be decimated. Its goals or missions will certainly not be achieved with the revelations of the Government's Budget and the unveiling of its Estimates. Our cultural community deserved better. Canada's cultural community not only provides Canadians with a sense of identity and uniqueness but it distinguishes Canada from other countries on the world stage. Canada's cultural community is at the forefront of our development as a nation. As an economic force, its contribution is similar to that of education or scientific research. It is an area of innovation, creativity and resourcefulness. These intangible qualities are essential to the maintenance of Canada's economic growth, its trading status and its quality of life.

In 1985, the Canadian Conference of the Arts estimated that the cultural sector contributed some \$10 billion a year to the Canadian economy. It employed 300,000 people directly and another 200,000 indirectly. In an informal analysis of the 1986 census data, preliminary findings indicated that the number of persons employed directly or indirectly in the cultural sector has increased faster than in many other sectors of our economy and has made a contribution of the arts and cultural industries to both the local, provincial and national economies, to say nothing of the quality of life in those cities.