

Borrowing Authority Act

What about co-operation? I must read part of an article into the record because many members opposite do not even read the Ottawa newspapers. On May 22, 1980, an editorial entitled "Barrels of Co-operation" appeared in *The Ottawa Journal*. I should like to quote from it because I think it is significant. It reads:

With the emphasis so heavily on conflict between Alberta and the federal government on energy issues, one might get the idea that Alberta has missed no opportunity to make things uncomfortable for the rest of us. In fact, the opposite was the case in the past year. While conflict was talked, co-operation was practised.

Amidst grave uncertainties about the supply of international oil, Alberta quietly permitted a 15 per cent increase in production of its fast-declining reserves of conventional oil last year. This spared eastern Canada from almost certain shortages of oil during the fall and winter heating season.

It also saved the country from an additional half billion dollar payments deficit by substituting Alberta oil for almost twice as costly imported oil. But it helped run Alberta's reserves down to 4.7 billion barrels of readily accessible conventional oil and hastened the day—coming very soon—when the maximum daily production of 1.4 million barrels must begin to decline.

Here is an important footnote:

The Alberta government has an ironclad constitutional right to limit the production of the province's oil to ensure adequate future supplies for its own residents. It can be argued that conventional oil reserves have reached the level at which a lower rate of production would be in everyone's interest—in that current output raises false hopes of domestic oil availability for the future.

Recently the Energy Resources Conservation Board issued a report which indicated that productive capacity will decline to a million barrels per day next year and to 966,000 barrels per day in 1982. The forecast indicates that conventional crude productive capacity will have declined to 688,000 barrels by 1985, and to 377,000 barrels per day by 1990. Indeed it is a fast depleting resource. When I heard the energy minister suggest that the tactics of Alberta can be compared to those of the separatist movement in Quebec, I found it insulting, offensive, and I do not think it is very Canadian on the part of that minister over there.

The government of Alberta has every right to insist on a fair deal—a realistic price for its energy resources. It has every right to receive its legitimate share of the revenues. Surely it is non-unCanadian to defend that position. As a matter of fact, it is in its own interest in terms of the constitution, and in the Canadian interest. As I pointed out, it is a fast diminishing resource. If the shoe were on the other foot I am sure the federal government would be taking that same position.

We must not be blinded by the fact that we simply look at price alone. The key is the security of supply, the ability to shift to alternate forms of energy and the ability to develop new sources of supply so that we can become self-sufficient in fossil fuels. Alberta is prepared to do its part. It is prepared to share, it has shared, and it will continue to share. I must insist that the agreement reached by our government and the province of Alberta was and still is in the best interests of Canada, Alberta, the region and all Canadians, so that we can go on developing, building and achieving the goals outlined and enunciated in the Speech from the Throne, have security of supply, to bite the bullet and face the issue, not hide behind some cheap political trickery which embarrasses the government at the present time.

An hon. Member: Swallow your pride.

Mr. Mazankowski: Why does the government not swallow its pride and get on with the job? It should get the deal made so that we can carry on building, so that the projects can go ahead, so that there will be jobs in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces—all of Canada. That is my appeal to that group over there. I hope they are listening.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, at first I did not intend to rise and address Bill C-30, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1980-81. It would provide the federal government with the power to borrow \$12 billion. However, I feel I must rise a second time. I spoke on this bill during second reading stage, and I should like to address it during third reading stage with some brief comments. I hope it will go through tonight.

It was my understanding this was pushed rapidly on us because in fact the federal government is broke. It does not have adequate funds to run this country of ours. Another thing which prompted me to rise and speak on third reading is that the Liberal government was so much in a hurry to get this bill through that it had a motion to close debate on it and therefore cut off second reading debate. They did this for a couple of reasons. The first was that it was an embarrassment to them, the fact they had to borrow \$12 billion to run this country. The second was that the government is broke and it needs money. In fact we are a bankrupt country at this time.

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We have things like housing overruns which CMHC cannot pay—the minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has reflected that in the province of Saskatchewan which has asked for funds to come into that province to cover the cost overruns in housing projects administered by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, under the responsibility and funding of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In fact I submit to you that this federal government could not pay the province of Saskatchewan the money it has due coming to it, and therefore the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation is put in the uncomfortable position of not being able to pay off some of the housing contractors who were involved in housing projects in Saskatchewan. I hope with the passage of this borrowing authority, to borrow \$12 billion for the federal government, the minister will in fact take note of that and listen to what we have been saying for years and years in the House, since he is here in the House tonight, and make sure that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation is paid the funds that are due to it so it can in fact pay off those debts.

The other things I can think of, Mr. Speaker, that are directly concerned with the constituency I represent, include a school on the Thunder Child Reserve which was approved by Indian Affairs some five years ago, and the Treasury Board has kept bouncing it back, bouncing it back for reproposal from Indian Affairs, and coming back to the reserve. The