

Borrowing Authority

would have us in two months solve this unemployment problem. Those are the results that are now facing us.

The Hon. Member also refers to broken promises. We are not being given any chance of doing something here. They are already attacking what we are in the process of doing and they talk about promises. However, I am very surprised that we should suddenly hear the Hon. Member for Hamilton-East (Ms. Copps) refer to Quebec. I am reminded of my colleague from Bourassa (Mr. Rossi), who is suddenly interested in something he never mentioned in four years, namely gasoline. He will not stop pestering us, and when we have the floor he speaks over and above us. Because all of a sudden he is interested. Good, I commend him for that, and I commend my colleague for Hamilton-East for her interest in Quebec. We hear so many things about Quebec these days, because they say we are a majority with 58 members. Think of what you were with 74 members! So here we are today and all of a sudden things start to come back. Anyway, I am pleased, and I commend her for her interest in Quebec. There is however something I can tell the Hon. Member. If there were then 800,000 unemployed and if now there are 1,500,000 you could ask your colleagues what to do and why it has not been done. This by way of a brief comment.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Hon. Member should give me an opportunity to talk about Quebec, because I know he is new here and has only a vague idea of what goes on in the House. Well, Mr. Speaker, I had the challenging opportunity to work in the province of Quebec during the great political years between 1974 and 1976, and I met and interviewed many future politicians before they had even thought of running for office. So, if he wants to bawl me out and say that I do not know anything about Quebec, I think he should learn a few things before making such remarks.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting, even laughable to hear the Hon. Member talk about broken promises. Unless I am mistaken, he got himself elected because he promised his constituents that he would do something about gasoline prices, but that is the last they heard of it. He never did anything. He said there would be no gasoline tax increase.

An Hon. Member: Beating his gums again!

Ms. Copps: We can see now, as my colleague points out, that he has conveniently forgotten his promises. The people of Quebec will no longer take him seriously because he has already shown to the Canadian people that he cannot do anything except renege on the promises he made during the election campaign.

[English]

Mr. Gormley: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to comment on several remarks made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). It is said every week when one goes back to Saskatchewan that one has been living in a cocoon. That cocoon, particularly that in which members of the Opposition and the

media find themselves, has enveloped the opinion of many people here. When I return to my riding every weekend I realize that people across Canada feel that they finally have a Government which is accountable, co-operative and consultative. Would the Hon. Member for Hamilton East concede that the events which have necessitated this borrowing may have occurred some time prior to the past three months?

• (1750)

With regard to a constructive Opposition, one would have to go a long way to find the kind of vituperative, strident polemics that we have been hearing. Does the Hon. Member believe that the matters which have necessitated this borrowing have been going on for any longer than the past three months?

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Hon. Member may not have past experience in this Parliament, but if one wants to talk about vituperative attacks, one should take a few pages from the book of the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen), who is now the chief of the political commissars. This Member may not be in a cocoon, but he has been cuckolded by his Government.

Some Hon. Members: Right on.

Ms. Copps: He has been cuckolded by his Government because he has to stand in his place as one of the major bookends and defend broken promises made by his Government, which was elected on a policy of openness and job creation, but then immediately moved to cut back on senior workers and on unemployment insurance benefits and to make it tough on the workers of Canada. This poor soul must go back to Saskatchewan to defend those policies. He is being cuckolded.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear the speech of the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) because the more speeches we hear of this nature the longer the Liberals will stay out of power. This talk about borrowing almost makes me laugh. We are borrowing \$16 million only to clean up the mess the Liberals left. When we have had 16 years in office like the Liberals had we will not be borrowing money; we will be lending money. We will have a heritage fund. We will not be wasting it the way the Liberal regime did.

How the Hon. Member can stand up without her face blushing as red as her dress, I cannot understand. She is a new Member here and I want to be nice to her. She is a very nice lady. She has a very nice dress, but she should remember that she is over there because the people of Canada got sick and tired of the Liberal regime borrowing over \$100 billion. The Hon. Member should not complain that we are borrowing a little money to clean up the mess the Liberals left.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, as a point of information, my dress is a blouse, but I do not think that is particularly relevant. It seems to me that the antediluvian suggestion of the Member that he should be nice to me because I am wearing a nice dress and am in a nice Liberal colour, is a clear indication of the