

*Borrowing Authority Act*

raises some very serious questions about the attitude that Parliament should take to granting further borrowing authority. I think specifically of the Petroleum Incentives Program on which the Government has spent something like \$1.6 billion. These grants have gone to the petroleum industry, but this money has created very few jobs at a time when there are 1.5 million people unemployed in the country. Taking into account those who have given up looking for work, who are discouraged because there is no work to be found, the real figure is more in the order of two million people. Yet this is when the Government asks for additional borrowing authority, when it has spent \$1.6 billion on incentive grants to the petroleum industry.

Those priorities are totally inappropriate in the present economic circumstances; they are insensitive to the human needs that exist in the community. If the Government were compassionate, it would borrow money to put people back to work rather than continue to funnel it to the petroleum industry.

● (1650)

It would not be so bad, Mr. Speaker, if there was only one example of the misdirection of scarce public funds. But look at the job-creation funds which went primarily into Liberal ridings. This use of public funds undermines the confidence of people in their Government. There is no way that any citizen of this country can have confidence in any Government which borrows money and then spends it in Government ridings rather than in opposition ridings. The unemployed of this country live in both Liberal and opposition ridings, and it is crucial that the Government comport itself in a way which will maintain public confidence. The funnelling of public money into Liberal ridings is surely the best way to undermine that confidence and encourage Parliament to reject requests from the Government for further borrowings.

Not only has this Government spent money unwisely, Mr. Speaker, but it has failed to collect taxes. The figures for 1980 indicate that there is something like \$22 billion in deferred corporate taxes. Yet the Government comes before this House asking to borrow something like \$29.5 billion. We all know that over the last 20 years the burden of taxation has shifted quite sharply from the corporate sector to the individual taxpayer. In light of the fact that corporations are paying a smaller and smaller portion of the costs of Government, that individuals are being asked to pay a larger and larger share, and the Government is asking for authority to borrow almost \$30 billion, how can it justify the continued deferral of some \$22 billion in corporate taxes? Perhaps it is time that the Government, rather than doing this, came forward with legislation to ensure that these corporations pay the money they owe and start paying a fair share of the costs of running the Government in this country.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Which company does not pay its tax?

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, I can give the Hon. Member a few examples. I have a list here of 15 of the largest Canadian industrial corporations which did not pay—

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Why don't you go to a Justice of the Peace and file an Information?

**Mr. Kristiansen:** It is legal because Tories pass crooked laws. Now, get off it.

**Mr. Keeper:** Fifteen of the largest Canadian industrial corporations did not pay—

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Why don't you go and lay a charge before a Justice of the Peace?

**Mr. Kristiansen:** It is perfectly legal; you guys were the crooks.

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, it is quite understandable that when we raise the question of fair taxation for corporations, the Tories start shouting and defending the corporate sector in this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, we must be getting under the Tories' skin when they start shouting and squealing so loudly. The 15 largest Canadian industrial corporations which did not pay corporate tax in 1981 and 1982 are the General Motors Corporation of Canada Limited, Alcan Aluminium Limited, Canadian National Railway Company, Hudson's Bay Company—

**Mr. Blenkarn:** How many people do they employ?

**Mr. Keeper:** Here they are shouting again, Mr. Speaker. The Tories are seeking to defend—

**Mr. Shields:** Let's put them into bankruptcy and put those people out of work.

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, they seek to defend the corporate sector. I am not surprised that when I raise the question of fair taxation for corporations, the Tories squeal. Just because a company employs people does not mean it does not have the responsibility to pay a fair share of the cost of public services in this country.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Close them down.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** The Tories say they want to close them down.

**Mr. Shields:** Pass another NEP.

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if this shouting from the Tory benches is not an endorsement of the trend which has been taking place over the past 20 years of shifting the burden of taxation in this country from corporations to ordinary