

Borrowing Authority

• (1600)

Mr. Manley: Did they encourage you to raise it?

Mr. McDermid: I would just leave that comment with the Hon. Member. He will have plenty of opportunity as will the public to participate in that program as he has had over the last two years in discussing tax reform which his Party supported.

Mr. Nault: I thought you were going to ask a question.

Mr. McDermid: Yes, I did, but this is comments and questions so the new Member can understand how it works.

The Hon. Member was talking about the safety nets and the programs that we have and we want to protect. Yet, at the same time, he is saying that everything should remain as the *status quo*, that we should not tackle this deficit problem. I understand he has a great deal of experience in the provincial Government and as he is now elected to the federal House perhaps he could give us the position of the Liberals on how they would, in fact, tackle the deficit problem?

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): We are not the Government. You are the Government.

Mr. McDermid: Here is a former Minister saying "We are not the Government. It is not our problem". What I am saying is that it is everybody's problem, every Canadian should be concerned about the debt. She sits there and says, "We are not the Government. We are not going to tell you how to do it." What an irresponsible statement from a Privy Councillor. I cannot believe it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Gloucester.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to get an opportunity to respond.

The one thing I would say to you and to my hon. friend through the Chair—

An Hon. Member: Honourable friend?

Mr. Young (Gloucester): I think all Members go through enough in here that they deserve to be called honourable no matter how they behave.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The thing that I want to make clear to my friend is that the tackling of the deficit and the huge debt in Canada is serious.

The Minister of Finance did not recognize the problem last fall in October and November because he did not say much about it and was still planning on spending a lot of money. However, the one thing the Liberal Party will never do is eliminate the debt on the backs of the elderly, the kids in universities, and the UIC recipients. Nor will we cut back on medicare and EPF funds to the provinces. That is one thing we will never do.

Some Hon. Members: Never!

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Milliken)—Canada Elections Act—Chief Electoral Officer's Report/Composition of Commission of Inquiry; the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Comuzzi)—Air Safety—Pearson International Airport—Effect of recent government measures/Testing of measures prior to implementation; the Hon. Member for Dartmouth (Mr. Macdonald)—Unemployment Insurance—Unemployment in black community—Effect of changes to system/Expenditure of funds—Request for affirmative action stipulation.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1989-90

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-11, an Act to provide borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.