

Borrowing Authority Act

stated that until the investment community itself has a little more confidence in the overall economic conditions in Canada and until we get the unemployment rate down and get people working, we are in a serious situation and these band-aid approaches in some areas and some programs in others are not really the solution.

Let me refer to the Hon. John Baxter, Finance Minister for the Province of New Brunswick, who says that the Budget reads more like social planning than like a budget. He says that it is hard to tell which programs are new and which are old. He gives the \$150 million youth employment program as an example. He also said, "It looks as if New Brunswick will lose out in federal transfers because of changes in cost-sharing agreements". All these examples do not give one much heart in being part of the parliamentary system in Canada. Another comment on the Budget was that it has no imagery, no direction and little, if any, substance. It is promisory Budget which the Government may or may not intend to honour.

Although the Government has made certain proposals for 1985, it is unlikely that it will have anything to do with the commitment it is making for 1985. I think we must be concerned that the Government is making many commitments for the future but doing very little at present.

As usual, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has essentially approved most of what is in the Budget, but it ends up its initial remarks by saying, "We have serious reservations about the Budget deficit". Of course, these reservations arise in light of what business can expect as a consequence of this Budget and this deficit. That is the primary subject of conversation as we consider this huge borrowing Bill.

The Budget did not address the cost of energy for the primary industries in Canada and therefore gave little hope to those who need assistance more directly. The Budget did not address this situation in any other industrial aspect, yet nothing has contributed more to inflationary tendencies than the energy policy of the Government and the cost of production in all spheres of Canadian business. Most seriously, it did not address this issue with respect to the farming or fishing community where bankruptcies have reached incredible and totally unacceptable levels as a result of the Government's policies.

Another area which is of concern to me and many others, and probably has been repeated, is that the Government's demand for over \$29 billion in government financing will not allow enough money for other types of financing. There will not be enough to make a money market that will bring about lower interest rates for others who want to borrow. The Government has cornered the market in the borrowing sphere. This is a great threat to our total economy due to the fact that all the other window dressing proposals in the Budget only hide the fact that it is only investors, small and large, fishermen, farmers and small businessmen who can provide employment. The Budget does not provide adequate relief to stimulate those people to make money and to spend money to improve the basic economy of this nation. This necessity has been utterly overlooked in the Budget.

I must ask whether the Government has considered if it can afford to borrow the savings of all Canadians at this level and have a prosperous Canada. How much consideration has the Government given in its Budget to the fact that it is increasing provincial borrowings by the amount of the cost savings and cost sharing programs it is transferring to the provincial Treasuries through other government policies? The Government's financial policy is totally irresponsible in a country which must have money if it wishes to expand and if it wishes to consume.

It disturbs me that the Department of National Revenue has become so desperate to collect money that it has initiated quotas in the tax collection system, whether it is by way of revenue collected by the income tax collector or by way of financial or employment rewards to customs officers. I am concerned that the Government, in desperation, leans on the small Canadian taxpayers to make demands for amounts that are too small to defend but which the small taxpayer virtually must pay because he finds himself helpless against the system which tries to collect the money.

I am concerned about the method of promotions in the customs division of National Revenue. Those employees are in the position where their performance as tax collectors is criticized if they do not meet a specified number of seizures within a year or a month. I am also critical of the fact that these employees receive pay increases or higher classifications that correspond to the number of seizures they make. That seems to be the purpose of their jobs.

It seems that the Government will borrow more money than Canadians will save. At the same time it will ignore the borrowing at all other levels of Government. The Government is leaning on average Canadians to collect taxes and is pressuring departmental employees with the threat of no promotion for not meeting certain quotas.

We have seen a deterioration in fiscal policy ever since the Budget which was introduced by the aspirant for the Liberal leadership. He set the pattern for the downgrading of the Canadian economy when he introduced his Budget. At that time I predicted that if the following budgets continued the same trend, we would eventually see an 80-cent dollar. Our dollar has continued to drop to the point where it has reached 78 cents after successive Liberal Budgets. The first Budget I am talking about which set this pattern was the Turner Budget. Since the Government followed his philosophy we have finally reached this point. Some of us will be going home during the Easter break to see our grandchildren. When I do so, I must say that I will face them with a very guilty conscience, because it is they who will have to pay this bill for the Government's financing. For the first time in my life I have reservations about being a Member of Parliament and part of a Parliament of Canada which would do this to our children and the generations to follow. It is very close to heresy and very close to a sabotage of our economy when the Government takes this persistent approach without any consideration for the long-term well-being of Canadian citizens.