

Borrowing Authority Act

you find that spending by this government is far in excess of the growth in the gross national product. It is not less, as the President of the Treasury Board has been claiming in this House, it is more. They have merely shifted from the consolidated revenue accounts into Crown corporation accounts certain spending, which heretofore had been part of the public accounts, thereby disguising their true spending habits.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. He may continue only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (2122)

Mr. S. Victor Railton (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I feel bound to interject here—

Mr. Breau: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member for Welland. I just want to ask Your Honour a question.

[*Translation*]

I merely want to ask the Chair at what stage of the debate an hon. member has the right to invoke Standing Order 37(1) when he has been misinterpreted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I believe I can answer that fairly quickly. At the beginning, the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) did not mention the words quoted by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau). If he did so, I was unaware of it and did not hear him attribute statements or a quotation to the hon. member, which could lead the hon. member for Gloucester to say he was misinterpreted. Then, the hon. member for Gloucester rose, saying he has been misunderstood or misinterpreted. The point he could certainly argue and bring up, but he surely had to give the Chair a chance to hear what the hon. member for Calgary Centre had to say. Moreover, I could not, at that point, accept the question of privilege as I had not heard what the hon. member for Calgary Centre had to say. The question of privilege was raised and I told him there was not a question of privilege. The hon. member for Gloucester has the floor.

Mr. Breau: Mr. Speaker, I admit you are right about what you heard or not; however, the hon. member has clearly interpreted my remarks, I did hear him clearly and I think he himself would recognize he did. I can understand Your Honour may not have heard or understood, but I simply want to tell you, that I heard the hon. member for Calgary Centre give a quite wrong interpretation of the position I have stated in my speech on a certain matter.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): One certainly cannot raise the question of privilege to quote the interpretations of a [Mr. Andre.]

position taken, or of what one intended to mean; it can be done only if one quotes the exact words that have been said and that have been given a wrong interpretation. Then one can certainly seek rectification by raising the question of privilege. However, I must say, I did not hear the hon. member for Calgary Centre quote words he had said and say—

[*English*]

—the hon. member for Gloucester said this and this and this and I will quote. I did not think there was a question of privilege and I so ruled.

The hon. member for Welland.

Mr. Railton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really rising because I cannot quite stomach some of the remarks tonight—

An hon. Member: Get a doctor!

Mr. Railton: I have plenty of tablets at my disposal for dealing with ordinary stomach ache, but it would take a peculiar type of medicine to enable me to put up with the sickness engendered by irresponsible talk from the other side. This talk about irresponsibility on the part of the government is ludicrous. I think some of the members on the other side should remember what Gordon Sinclair, that good old war-horse, said a year ago—that our leader is the most maligned man in Canada and that he is getting tired of all the blame and approbrium being heaped on his shoulders by small minds. And small minds come from the other side. I think this kind of debate tonight has been taken a little too far.

Way back in October and a little later we were discussing Bill C-7, and at that time the opposition was still talking about irresponsibility as well as about unemployment and inflation. As you know, Mr. Speaker, unemployment is no fault of the government. In fact, we have been creating more jobs in the last ten years than any other country in the world. I have to keep repeating this because people do not listen. We have to keep repeating the simple truth. In some years the number of new jobs created has been 250,000; in other years 350,000. It is usually between 250,000 and 275,000 jobs every year. No other country has done as well either in terms of percentage or in absolute figures.

If you want to talk about the growth of the labour force and the reason for the present unemployment, there are some encouraging figures to go on. As the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McRae) told us a few weeks ago, for every 100 people employed in Germany ten years ago there are today some 96. The figure for the U.K. is around 110. In Italy it is around 112 and the figures for France are roughly even. In the United States it is 125 but in Canada it is between 145 and 150. There is no other industrial country in the world which has experienced such growth in the labour force. We want to see participation by women and young people. We have more young people than most other countries—

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Railton: There is no doubt we have experienced a bigger population growth through the birth rate than most