

Borrowing Authority

many Canadians who are faced with that reality today, but not everyone is hurting in these difficult economic times.

There are a number of examples of people who are not hurting. One is the Canadian banking community. It is doing quite nicely, thank you very much. In fact its profits last year were incredibly high, particularly by comparison with the previous year which was a record year. Even though it was a very difficult time for thousands and thousands of Canadians, the banks did very well. They managed to look after themselves with the assistance of their allies in Government, to the extent that many of them effectively paid no taxes whatsoever.

What about equity and fairness? What kind of fairness is there in an economic system which allows those who are big and powerful to continue to get bigger, more powerful and more wealthy, at the same time as it literally condemns millions of Canadians to economic servitude? In their recent statement the Catholic Bishops said it far more eloquently than I could, that this system, which is based upon the pursuit of profit and upon the aggrandizement of capital at the expense of labour, is fundamentally immoral. We must reshape our priorities so that we have an economic system which serves the needs of people, not an economic system which increasingly serves the needs of only a wealthy few. There are a number of recipients of this largesse. We need look no further than the friends of the Liberal Government such as Michael Pitfield who was appointed to the Senate. Surely that must be one of the most cynical appointments at a cost of literally millions of dollars to Canadians. Also there is the appointment of Donald Macdonald, leadership candidate and former Conservative—former Liberal, I should say. I am sorry I confused the two, but there is not a great deal of difference. Mr. Macdonald, who is receiving some \$800 per day, says that he needs money for the overhead of his law firm.

Mr. Pepin: Oh!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Macdonald is not serving the people of Canada as a lawyer. He is serving the people of Canada, his good friend, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), and his colleagues as a commissioner. To suggest that he needs overhead for his law firm is absolute rubbish.

I suppose none of us should be particularly surprised at this gravy-train approach to friends of the Liberal Government. We need look no further than the recent Gillespie affair for a further illustration of that. I know that my time is limited, but I want to say that the Bill is fundamentally wrong. It continues to reflect the policies of a bankrupt Government, policies which have not in any way represented a significant difference from those of the Conservative Party.

For example, the Conservative Party is silent on the scandalous situation of bank profits and the fact that both the Liberals and the Conservatives receive some \$50,000 a year from each of the major banks, which I am sure has something to do with it. These are the same banks which have refused to allow Canadians to renegotiate their mortgages. If their mortgages

have terms of less than five years, they are locked into them at very high rates of interest.

I am sorry my time has come to an end. I very strongly urge all Members of Parliament to reject the Bill and to call upon the Government to come to its sense and reorder its economic priorities to create jobs for all Canadians.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, indeed it is a pleasure to follow the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson). The New Democratic Party is guilty, and the more guilty it feels the louder it gets. To listen to the Hon. Member for Burnaby rise on behalf of unemployed Canadians and say to the House that it is immoral to have a society in which people cannot have jobs is to assert a truth. It is immoral, but the real immorality of which 1.6 million Canadians should be aware today is that back in December 1979 a Government was defeated, one which had been in place for nine months, and it was not a Liberal Government. Jobs in this country had increased on an average of 35,000 per month in the private sector; in nine months over 300,000 more jobs were created. For that little rump group from the West to rise in the House and throw out a Government which was creating jobs was truly an immoral act.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): The people of Canada passed judgment on you.

Mr. Hawkes: For it to stand in this House and throw out the Government of the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) when in fact its budget was judged by the Canadian Welfare Council to be the fairest budget—

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): The people of Canada threw out that Government.

Mr. Roche: You threw it out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I believe the record will show that it was the people of Canada who decided that the Progressive Conservative Government should not continue in power.

Mr. Hawkes: In this Chamber on that night I was here, and you stood and you threw out the Government. It was your motion, and it was a budget which was the fairest—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member's remarks should be addressed to the chair, and I assure him that this occupant of the Chair was not here on that occasion.

Mr. Hawkes: I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. I hate to saddle you with their burdens, because their guilt is so deep and so true. That Government created 35,000 jobs per month in its nine-month life. That Government was reducing the federal deficit and the interest payments. That budget was reducing the burden of regulation on the small-business sector.

Mr. Riis: Then why did the people of Canada throw you out?