

Borrowing Authority

Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney) pointed out, if you take into account the Government's own on hand cash balances, the Government needs only to borrow \$7.7 billion. That is all the Government needs in additional borrowing authority.

● (1530)

But we are asked, as Members of Parliament, blindly to approve borrowing authority for a Government which, as I hope to show later on, has not been responsible to the people of Canada in the expenditures it has undertaken. People presume that the Government is responsible to Members of Parliament, the Parliament of Canada, and that we as Members of Parliament, in turn, are responsible to the people of Canada. But the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) when he brought in his budget, to save his own hide—a facade for the people of Canada—literally with the stroke of a pen, added \$200 million. Just with the stroke of a pen the Minister of Finance threw in \$200 million to change the budget he exposed through his asinine tomfoolery and his showmanship.

I do not know what the rush is to have this Bill passed, but I would presume that if this Bill is rammed through, as the Government wishes to do, then Parliament will not be able to scrutinize for the balance of this fiscal year any spending which this Government wants to undertake. This Government, and Members of the NDP who support the Government, have much the same policy lines. The Leader of the NDP in March of 1983, as reported in *Grainews*, said:

What we're going to be doing is to express in emotional terms the need for action, rather than worrying about the details of the action that's needed.

That is what we see. It is a policy of "never mind what happens with the money. Just get the money, spend it and hope that after a long period of time some benefit accrues". It is policy of "for goodness sakes do not plan, do not set out priorities and do not try to bring the employment rate, which is devastating this country, below 10 per cent". It is a policy of "continue to borrow money and throw it against the wall. Some of it will stick and maybe then there will be some good for the people of Canada from this spending".

The people who pay for this Bill are the taxpayers of Canada. They will pay an additional \$5.7 billion in tax increases over the next four years. The next Government and the next generation will inherit this burden, this legacy of debt, which this Government has put upon us.

The Government talks about fast-tracking. It is certainly fast-tracking when it comes to spending. In the past 15 years under this Government spending has increased almost 700 per cent. Since the re-election of the Liberal Government in 1980 spending has increased 84 per cent on a national accounts basis. Government spending now is equal to 26 per cent of Canada's Gross National Product. Over one-quarter of our productivity is channelled directly into Government and spent by the Government. What has been the result, Mr. Speaker?

In 1970-1971 the deficit was \$370 million and the unemployment rate was 5.7 per cent. In 1975-1976 the deficit was \$5.4 billion and the unemployment rate was 7 per cent. Today, with a projected deficit of over \$31 billion, the unemployment

rate tops 12 per cent. If we look at the projections of a \$25 billion per year deficit over the next four years and the unemployment rate projected at well over 10 per cent for the same period; we see that the way this Government has been spending its funds and the way it has been abusing the power has not decreased unemployment. It has not helped those who wish to have jobs.

A \$30 billion deficit works out to about \$1,200 per man, woman and child. This Government is applying a debt of nearly \$5,000 to each average family of four. That money is being borrowed on behalf of every average family in Canada. The people will have to pay off that debt through increased taxes.

Where could the Government have saved some money? Where was it not necessary for the Government to become involved and spend the money which taxpayers work hard to earn who would like to have a little bit left for themselves, a little bit to put away for a rainy day, and a little bit to enjoy on a holiday? This Government did not have to spend \$350,000 on an advertising campaign in Quebec which gave out misleading information on the Crow. The Government did not have to spend an extra \$300,000 on Crow ads in western Canada on a four-page circular to give different information that contradicted the \$350,000 it had spent before along with a small brochure it sent to each permit holder of the Canadian Wheat Board. Over \$1 million was spent on advertising the change in the statutory rate for grain. The Government could have brought the subject of the Crow into the House of Commons. The issue could have gone to committee. We could have debated the issue. Representations could have been made at committee stage. This process would not have cost the taxpayers of Canada. But it is not just the \$1 million I have spoken about.

Let us examine some expenses of the Standing Committee on Transport. I would presume, because of the change in budgeting for the 1983-1984 fiscal year, that this Committee will have non-staff travel expenses, that is, expenses for professional services. The amount involved is \$145,000 for travel. We did not have that expense last year. Let us look at the expense for Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence. Last year the Standing Committee on Transport budgeted for \$57,000. That amount is now up to \$98,000. The total for this coming year will probably be \$110,000. Let us look at the cost of advertising for this Committee. It is \$50,000. What about professional services? The amount there is \$300,000. Now we come to this item of rentals. If committee hearings are held in Ottawa there is not a thing to rent. The amount opposite that category is \$25,000. But look at what we have for miscellaneous. The amount is \$115,860. Miscellaneous, just a small item.

I see that you are indicating my time has expired, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the courtesy. Let me say once again that I feel a great deal of regret at the spending of this Government.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, this is the third time in four months that I have