

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservatives have a responsibility to show Canadians that they are going to stop this masquerade they have been carrying on for Canadians during the first two months of their mandate.

They have no credibility with the Canadian people. They speak about job creation but then they cannot take their mind off the deficit. They will make cuts, for example, within the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. At the same time, they say that their policy is to make more housing units available for workers and for the poor. However they are reducing the funds available to CMHC for the construction of houses when we know that such developments have created 20,000 jobs in Canada this year. Some 20,000 jobs have been created, but the economic policy of the Tories is to cut programs and reduce the number of jobs in Canada and that is why the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is ashamed to table in the House the papers which clearly show that his economic policy will reduce the number of jobs in Canada.

● (1740)

[English]

It is a littered trail of broken promises.

The Government comes to the Opposition now and speaks of co-operation. It tells the Canadian people that it needs \$16 billion in order to carry out the work we have ahead of us over the next number of months. It is clear this Government is asking for this co-operation when its policy has been one of government behind closed doors. It has been a policy of *gouvernement à huis clos*.

The only exposure we have had to government policy has been the error by the Minister of Finance in leaving his dossier where it could be exposed to public view. It seems to me the Government should have a policy where the people and Governments of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec know whether there is going to be a further \$200 million reduction in transfer payments as a direct result of this Government's inability to renegotiate agreements. The taxpayers of Canada have a right to know this information, but not by way of the kind of hotel caper we saw manifest itself this week. To suggest the Minister of Finance is going to embark on open government by leaving a trail of dossiers behind him is a travesty. It was stated in the House today, and I think it is quite clear, that the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), in his former capacity as Minister of Finance, would never have committed such a grievous error. I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Government will take the Minister of Finance to task.

I know that a number of government members take their responsibilities very seriously. They have spent many hours pondering on those responsibilities, particularly in view of the fact that they do not have that much else to do. They will know that although we in Opposition are small in number, we have a right to be heard. The inviolate right of this Chamber is the right of free speech, and that includes the right to a free and full discussion on financial matters, such as the expendi-

Borrowing Authority

ture of \$16 billion. I see the government House Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is nodding his head in approval. When he was in Opposition it was stated quite clearly—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Me?

Ms. Copps: Nodding your head in approval. You are agreeing.

Mr. Deans: It is an affliction.

Ms. Copps: I think it should be noted for the record that the government House Leader agrees we must all take our responsibilities very seriously. But the Government is moving ahead with the unprecedented introduction of a borrowing Bill, at a time when we have not even dealt with Supplementary Estimates, when we have been denied our voting rights as a result of the Government's inability to get its political act together, a Government that introduces a borrowing Bill which extends into a new fiscal year in an unprecedented move of arrogance. It seems to me that Members on the Government side should be knocking on the door of their House Leader and Minister of Finance and the Hon. Member for Mississauga South. I hope maritime Members will confer with the Hon. Member for Mississauga South to determine whether they support his position on ferry cuts. Do they see any problem with a 15 per cent increase in the cost of ferry service?

We have a job to do, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be here for a good while in our respective roles, at least for four years.

Mr. Gormley: How long?

Ms. Copps: Pardon me?

Mr. Gormley: A lot longer than four years.

Ms. Copps: The Hon. Member will live to eat those words, I am sure. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the Government has the responsibility to provide information, and we join with it in that responsibility.

[Translation]

Mr. Della Noce: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment.

[English]

I would like to address myself to the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps). She speaks and speaks and speaks with many arguments. She said very clearly that we have had a mandate since September 4, but I am wondering if it was 1984 or 1972. Her Government had a lot of chances to do something.

[Translation]

She also referred to unemployment, Mr. Speaker. She referred to unemployment; she said and she repeated that we are doing nothing, that we cut, and cut, and cut. It is again the same story that we have been hearing here. She had ample opportunity, her Government had ample opportunity to do that, to solve the unemployment problem. There were 800,000 unemployed, they brought that up to 1,500,000 and now she