

Supplementary Borrowing Authority

I spoke about teachers, I spoke about prophets and I spoke about truth in the world situation today as I see it, Mr. Speaker. I believe that, as the prophet would say, it is extremely important that somehow or other we Canadians convert; that we become converts; that we change what we are doing. I refer to change in our understanding of what is taking place. We must realize that we are part of a world drama, a part of changes that affect every place in the world. We must also realize that the way things were will not be the way they will be in the future. The things that in the past guaranteed a way of life will not be easy, or perhaps not even possible, in the future. I believe that is one area in which my conversion and that of everyone else has to take place.

Another conversion that is necessary is the realization that the war game does nothing except destroy the economic base of the world and the possibility of peace in the future.

I feel that bad as the situation is in many homes in Canada, bad as the situation is behind many of those doors at which we knocked in our ridings, bad as the situation is in every little town and village, we must be conscious of the fact that Canada is still in relatively good shape compared to the rest of the world.

It is difficult to say that to someone who is unemployed. I know it sounds cruel and cold to that person, but I speak from some experience. There are countries today that have 150 per cent inflation, or that have 60, 70, 80 per cent unemployment. There are countries that had hope for the future but a natural disaster has destroyed their crops. At the moment, there is a disastrous situation in India because of crop damage. This week the newspapers carried the story of disaster in Indonesia which has resulted in crop damage. I think it is important that we be very conscious that we live in a part of the world that is still blessed.

I realize that my riding of Saskatoon East is a special place. Saskatchewan has been fortunate compared to the rest of Canada because it has the lowest unemployment rate of any province. Nevertheless, I speak for those people who are unemployed; I speak for those people who are suffering from want, and in no way do I take away from the gravity of their difficulties but I think it is also important to realise that we are still among the fortunate few compared to the whole world picture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have been listening to the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) with some attention. The Bill before us is the borrowing authority. The Chair has some difficulty relating the Hon. Member's remarks to the Bill that is before the House.

Mr. Ogle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I am glad you brought this to my attention. The reason I was following this line of thought is that, as far as I know, for a government to ask for \$4 billion on top of \$23 billion is something that has not happened in this country before. I have not been here all my life but I feel that we are in different times now. I was trying to indicate that I believe there are certain quotients that are not being brought out which would indicate why there is this kind of debt. The Member who spoke before me talked about

the energy industry, about buying this or not buying that; I appreciate that is how part of the money is spent. I was trying to speak to the credibility of the House of Commons. Why has it allowed this kind of thing to take place? I do not think any of us came to this House with the idea of bankrupting the country. It is true that has happened during the time the Party opposite has been in power, but I have not heard any better ideas from the Party to my right that wants to come to power. In this Party, we have proposed solutions. Even so, I do not think the whole question of why times are different now has been addressed.

Even though Your Honour may feel that my remarks are out of order, it is for the reasons I have mentioned that I believe them to be in order. I believe that it is necessary to look in directions that have not yet been examined seriously, to see why the country is going down the drain. I could point to different Members of the Government and blame them, but I do not know if that sort of thing helps. The people behind the doors we knock upon wonder why we have lost credibility.

I do not claim that my explanation is the only true one, Mr. Speaker. I spoke about truth at the beginning, but the reality and the truth is so complicated that even the specialists do not know what is going on. We must look for other explanations than the one that is generally given—that it is the other Party's fault. I do not think that is the kind of solution Canadians are looking for today. To return to the question of credibility—and I am not saying that I have credibility or that I have the truth—I believe it is important that the House of Commons and the people in it who were sent here from all over the country look at other reasons for what has happened. I do not believe that what I am saying is that far out of line. I really believe in what George Ignatieff, the former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, said in his letter this past week to *The Globe and Mail* in which he talked about things not unlike what I have just been speaking about. He talked about the fact that we have come to a time in which new problems have reached such a climactic stage that the old solutions are not working. But he gave a solution in his letter to that newspaper to which I would like to refer. In it he asked why Canada does not celebrate the thirty-seventh anniversary of our signature at the United Nations.

• (2110)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member, again the rule of relevance has to be brought to his attention. I have great difficulty in relating these remarks to the borrowing authority Bill.

An Hon. Member: It has to do with the national debt.

Mr. Ogle: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I think I could certainly address the Bill in the way that it is ordinarily addressed in the House of Commons. I would be glad to do that, but what I was trying to say—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Again I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but the time allotted to him has expired. He may