

Borrowing Authority

about creating 50,000 jobs for Canadians. It spent four months promoting and advertising the Program while the Minister of Employment and Immigration travelled across the country bragging about it, but it was four months before any information was given to those groups who are eligible to apply under the Program. It was four months before the Government completed the brochures that it would send to those eligible groups such as native communities, unions and small businesses. The Government spent much time advertising and promoting its Program but did little to take concrete action to provide jobs. As a result, almost six months after the Program was announced, only 4,000 or 5,000 jobs have been created. Canadians have spent a dismal winter of unemployment, and Unemployment Insurance benefits have been lost at a rate of up to 70,000 a month. However, in that same period the Government has created 4,000 or 5,000 jobs through that widely promoted Program.

We in the New Democratic Party believe that the Government does have a role to play in the economy. We believe that there must be job-creation programs implemented and that many Government workers are honestly trying to do a good job, despite what some Conservatives say. However, they are not being provided with the necessary leadership to make these programs work. The groundwork and preparation for the NEED Program should have been completed when it was announced in October. The Government should have been ready to proceed and create jobs for the winter we have just gone through. Once again, those jobs were not available because the Government failed to do the work that was initially required.

For that reason, the NDP cannot support this borrowing Bill. We cannot sanction giving a blank cheque to a Government which did not provide the proper leadership for the expenditure of the money it had last winter.

We have no knowledge of where this money will be spent. Will it be used to help the pensioners? We have already seen White Papers and Green Papers and pronouncements by Ministers on the needs of pensioners, but there has been no pension reform. Will the money be spent on medical services? We have heard announcements from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) about the need for a better health Act in the country. We have heard much about what she would do about extra billing and about doctors who opt out of medicare plans. Will the \$14 billion be used to improve medical services? Will the Government use this, rather, to send out its message through news releases and other means about what it might do five years or six years down the road? If that is what it intends to do, then the money would be wasted. While the money is needed for pensions, medical services and jobs, we have absolutely no knowledge of where the Government's priorities lie.

Another indication of the Government's lack of planning is that this Bill has been brought before the House before we have seen the budget. Members should be aware of the Government's plans before giving it borrowing authority. We

should not give the Government a blank cheque without knowing what it will do with the money.

We in the New Democratic Party want action and leadership for Canadians and direction for the Canadian economy. We want to help the unemployed in Schefferville, those people who have been laid off by a heartless company which had a heartless president. We want jobs for the people who have been laid off in Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, Port Alberni, Leaf Rapids, Kamloops, Sydney, Windsor, Hamilton and Gimli. We want security for those in Winnipeg, Regina, and Toronto who fear losing their jobs. We want the Government to respond to the need for jobs and help those who want to keep their jobs. That help is not coming from the Government.

Action must be taken to help the farmers, such as the De Mings family in Manitoba whose farm is being foreclosed by the Royal Bank. That is a bank that has not paid one cent in federal income tax in the last year and has a \$20 million tax credit which it can use to defer or prevent it from paying taxes in the coming year. Farmers are losing their farms to banks which are making record profits. At the same time, small businessmen are losing their businesses.

• (1250)

In closing—because I realize my allotted time has almost expired—what we are saying is that there are a number of Canadians who are facing a very difficult financial situation. They are losing their jobs, their customers, their farms, their offices and their businesses. We have sympathy for those Canadians, but we want more than sympathy, we want leadership from the Government. We do not want to give the Government money without any leadership. If it provides the leadership, then we will help to provide the dollars; but until then, we say “No, no, no” to more Government spending without a purpose.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cosgrove: Shame, shame, shame.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Bill C-143, through which, as Your Honour knows, the Government is requesting \$5 billion to take it to end of this month, and then \$14 billion as an interim advance on next year's deficit. Your Honour will know that this Party is opposing this Bill and that we have proposed an amendment to reduce the \$14 billion to \$1. The \$5 billion plus the carry-over will take the Government well into May, even into early June, and at that time it can come back to the House and quite properly request funds with documentation as to how that money will be spent.

Before the Hon. Member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) leaves, I want to address the point which he raised. He asked why Canadians cannot buy Canadian cars. The reason Canadians cannot buy Canadian cars is that the Liberal Government made a decision back in the early seventies that we would not go to the world price in energy. By that one decision made in