

*Borrowing Authority*

that the Government is doing everything it can to make sure that those who are directly affected by the cuts will be given first priority to relocate either in other Departments or in the private sector.

**Mr. Clifford:** Mr. Speaker, I support my colleague's endorsement of Bill C-11. I share his interest in receiving so many calls from the private sector and small business supporting the direction in which the Government is heading.

I am surprised at the responses we have heard from Members opposite with respect to this Bill and the consultative process. They appear to be shocked by our consultative approach.

I would suggest that the speeches that have been made by our Ministers have clearly indicated that people have responded positively to this process upon which we have embarked. For example, there are representatives from the municipality of London in my riding who are here to consult with the Government about the future of our municipality and, indeed, the future of the country.

As a new Member of Parliament, it is a new experience for me to be part of a Government that indeed wants to ask people what went wrong in the past and to ask for their input to help make a better future for all Canadians.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pappas):** Does the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner) wish to reply to that comment?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I have no comment, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct another question to the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner). The Government is asking for permission to borrow \$16 billion for the next fiscal year, beginning April 1. Can the Hon. Member cite a precedent or give any authority the Government can use for asking for borrowing authority prior to bringing down a budget?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I personally cannot cite a precedent.

**Mr. Nickerson:** The Government did it last year.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** However, I believe that members of the Official Opposition have been setting such precedents in the House for many years.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to my previous question. Perhaps the Hon. Member did not understand the nature of the question.

Of course, I assume that as a representative of Ottawa-Carleton he would have some interest and awareness of the Government's decision with respect to the proposed changes to the Canada Labour Code that will affect 300,000 public servants, a good number of whom live in his constituency. I find it incredible that the Hon. Member can rise in his place and say he does not know what those changes are. I assume

that he did not understand the question. Is the Hon. Member aware of the Government's decision, through the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight), to put on the backburner changes to the Canadian Labour Code affecting federal employees in the area of occupational health and safety, maternity leave and sexual harassment? If he is not aware of it, why on earth not? If he is aware of it, does he support that decision?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent the people of Ottawa-Carleton. I always thought that a Friday afternoon in the House was a day of relaxation, but I am quickly learning that that is not the case.

I am not entirely conversant with the issues which my friend, the Member for Burnaby, has raised. However, I take note of his excellent suggestion and I will meet very soon with the Minister to seek more clarification on those concerns.

**Mr. Crofton:** Mr. Speaker, my remarks pertain essentially to the comments made a few moments ago by the member from the Official Opposition—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pappas):** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member. Questions should be put to the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner). If the Member would like to address the Chair and address the question to the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner), I will accept it. Otherwise, I will have to recognize someone else.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be advisable for the Hon. Member to read this morning's *Globe and Mail*. He would be able to inform himself about the consequences, dire consequences, with respect to maternity leave, paternity leave and adoption. Canadians who are rebuilding the Hon. Member's future and the future of his constituents might be interested in knowing that the maternity provisions were forged in a very hard and difficult battle. They are vital to the well-being of the future of our country, although the business community—and I know the Hon. Member has a particular interest in the business community as I do, but not to the detriment of youth and children in our future—tried to block all this advanced legislation, these new social roles and the important equal opportunities for women.

● (1430)

I would like to suggest that since all the Parties in the great big pre-election atmosphere accepted these rules and new laws, the Hon. Member might see to it in his own caucus that they are put into application. How does the Hon. Member feel about that?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pappas):** The period for questions and comments is now terminated. I would like to recognize the Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner).

**Mr. Benjamin:** Let the Hon. Member answer. There is unanimous consent.