

ity, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the Borrowing Authority Act by which the Government is seeking to borrow an additional \$29.5 billion. All of us agree that borrowing money is not necessarily wrong. I am sure at one time or another all of us have had to borrow money. The question is, how much and for what will it be used? Let me use the example of an unemployed worker. There is a major difference between that unemployed worker borrowing a substantial amount in order to go to Hawaii for a vacation and borrowing to purchase a car so that he can get to a nearby town to find employment. There is a big difference between this Government's borrowing money so that it can give \$8 billion over the next few years to oil companies that will be drilling on Canada Lands, whether or not they drill dry holes, and conversely borrowing money to be used for labour-intensive projects which would help restore our economy to a sound footing, putting people back to work and ending some of the misery of unemployment.

Our Party would be much more open to this Bill if the Government were serious about the major problems affecting Canada today, but we see no indication of that. Where is the Government's commitment to reverse the loss of jobs and the drain this creates on the total economy? Victoria, B.C., in the southern part of my constituency, now has the second highest level of unemployment in Canada. People in that community are suffering deeply from the knock-out punch of the punitive attitude of the provincial Social Credit Government and the neglect of the federal Government. While a great deal of attention has been focused on the punishing attitude of the provincial government and the neglect of the federal Government, the attitude and drift it has taken toward basic resource industries such as forestry and the fisheries is, in the long run, almost as disastrous as the punishing attitude of the Socreds.

Another area of Government neglect about which I would like to speak briefly is the whole area of Indian Affairs. Last week Canadians witnessed the last minute conversion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to at least the rhetoric of aboriginal self-government. There was some surprise when the provinces did not buy this rhetoric as it was presented to them.

If we look at the Prime Minister's proposal, we see that it lacked any real commitment to the aboriginal people. We see that the Government's response to the report of the Special Committee on Indian Self-Government lacked any specific economic commitment to the Indian people. Indian self-government without economic commitment to back it up will be nothing more than a comic opera, a meaningless charade.

Let us look at housing on Indian reserves. Housing is connected to the concomitant problems of sewer and water. These are woefully inadequate on reserves from one end of Canada to another. We can point to some outstanding examples where housing, water and sewage systems are good, but by and large the housing situation across Canada is woefully inadequate. It is tied in with the terrible standard of health

Borrowing Authority Act

that Indian people have to face, the high drop-out rate of Indian children at school, unemployment and the loss of culture. When people do not have adequate housing and an adequate infrastructure in their communities, all of these other things tend to go by the board as well.

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Across Canada right now, there is the phenomenon of Indian people being forced off the reserves and away from their home communities into the crowded ghettos of large cities. Once those Indians are in the ghettos, the federal Government thinks it is able to wash its hands of them and no longer provides them with basic services. For example, educational services to off-reserve Indian people were terminated last year. Indian people find themselves forced into a welfare system.

This year, the Department of Indian Affairs is saying that it will not be able to fund training programs for the urban training centre in Vancouver. Last December, some attention was directed to the case of Joyce and Birdie Canton, an Indian couple from the Wabigoon Reserve in northwestern Ontario who moved to the City of Winnipeg because their home on the reserve was condemned for health reasons. However, I think it is important to remember that a couple like the Cantons are not the exception to the rule. Rather, they were exceptional only because of the fact that they received a certain amount of media attention because they refused to submit quietly to the indignity of bad housing and welfare when they did not want to do so and should not expect to have to do so.

In 1979, it was estimated that the Indian people across Canada had a housing shortage with a backlog of some 13,000 units. Five years later, our best guess is that there are still some 10,000 housing units urgently needed on Indian reserves. I say that that is the best guess because no up-to-date national survey has been done. This year, approximately 2,400 housing units will be built, and this will keep up only with the necessary replacements needed for deteriorating homes and new family formations. However, it does nothing to address the continuing backlog of 10,000 or more needed housing units. Last year, special recovery funds went toward building an extra 900 units, and it is rather depressing to realize that those 900 units represented the largest single dent that had ever been made in the backlog.

It would be encouraging, Mr. Speaker, to see some of the money that the Government is borrowing used to address this urgent national problem. However, we do not see the Government addressing that problem with any degree of urgency. In addition to the inadequate funding, there is inefficiency in the way in which the Department delivers the funding. Money often arrives too late for the Indian people to take advantage of the short construction season experienced in many parts of northern Canada. When Indian bands receive their funding late, it means that they are stuck with high interest charges.

The Government is committed to Indian control of Indian education, or at least it is committed in its rhetoric to Indian control of Indian education. However, in situation after situa-