

Borrowing Authority

exist in the high unemployment areas of the hon. gentleman's province. It does not exist. You must have direct job-creation programs. A community group applies for the program to carry out an activity. For somebody to stand in this House and say that was a waste of money and that the students were not doing anything is to criticize the local community group that applied to the government for the money.

If this Government is sincere about being concerned about students, it will have to turn around next summer and have the same kind of job creation program for students as the former Liberal government had. If it does not, then it can wave good-bye to any credibility which it has in high unemployment areas of Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The period for questions and comments has now expired. We will resume debate.

● (1230)

Mr. Stewart McInnes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, in viewing the activities in the House I have been aroused and at times interested by the comments from the island of red interspersed with pink. However, I have gained heart and confidence when I have heard utterings from the sea of blue from time to time.

At this particular time I am compelled to recall a certain passage from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. I should like to quote a passage from that bible and draw attention to the following well-known words:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

The Liberals in their new-found station in life on the benches opposite, of course, will recognize that on September 4 Canadians said that it was the worst of times, that it was the age of foolishness, that it was the epoch of incredulity, that it was the age of darkness—and indeed it is for them—and that it was the winter of despair, which again is here for the Liberal party. If this is true, the Liberals will recognize that they were the authors of their own misfortune. Their hollow cries of objection can be nothing more than a knee-jerk reaction. If they paused and reflected, they would fully realize that they have created the mess in which we find ourselves today.

I have reservations about standing to support the massive borrowing Bill before us today, but there is no alternative. However, we on this side of the House believe, as the people of Canada agreed on September 4—and I am persuaded that they will reaffirm their belief in years to come—that this can be the best of times. They recognize that this is now a new age of wisdom, that we are at the commencement of a new epoch of belief, that there is a season of light, that we are on the dawn of a spring of hope and that we have everything before us. There is only one way to go, and that is up. Based upon the formulae, the confidence the Government has instilled in

Canadians and the principles enunciated in the economic statement, that is the path Canada will now take.

I compare the situation in Canada to a dike and the sea. For the past number of years we have had a drip and a drip and a drip, increasing to two drips and three drips, until many holes appeared in the dike on which only band-aids, splashes of cement or chewing gum were applied. They were band-aid measures. There has been such an increase in the holes in the dike that it is in danger of collapse. Now more than temporary mortar or temporary band-aids must be applied to deal with this situation.

What is needed are structural changes in the dike. We have to start all over again because what we have had until now has apparently not worked. We will consult with structural engineers and architects in Canada. We will convene meetings and enter into dialogue with masons, carpenters and all people who are part of the central ingredient of our economy. It takes time to draft a new structure. We cannot build by copying the last structure, the one which failed. We have to return to the drawing-board and start again.

That is the intention of the Government. We also intend to consult with all people who are essential to and form a necessary component or part of the economic structure of Canada. We have set a course of action to speak with the provinces, labour, business and the people. We have spoken with the people. We have touched upon possible solutions. We have given them an indication of where we might go, and they have applauded. However, we have only started. We have only given a hint, a blueprint. Now we must fill in the details. But that can be done only after realizing that we have consulted and listened. We will ensure that the repercussions of our plans will be minimal on any group or any person who feels aggrieved or adversely affected. This is the new process of consultation into which this Government enters.

Indeed, we are prepared to listen to Hon. Members opposite who from time to time have given us some constructive ideas on how we might proceed. The last speaker from Newfoundland indicated that he had no obligation or duty to propose, only to criticize. He contradicted what previous speakers in his Party said only yesterday. They indicated that they had an obligation to enter into the dialogue and to participate. This is what this Government and this Party invite all Hon. Members of the House to do—to be constructive rather than just critical.

As members of the House collectively and individually, we have an obligation to rethink the process. What we have today is what we asked for. We are where we are because that is what the people of Canada asked of us. We have responded to their pleas over the years in endeavouring, particularly at election time, to appease them and console them. Collectively we have failed. I suggest the reason we have collectively failed is that there has been no leadership to indicate the direction we should take. Now we have leadership, starting with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), down to the Cabinet, down to the Conservative Party and down, I hope, to all Hon. Members of the House. The Prime Minister indicated by way of leadership