

*Borrowing Authority Act*

Today, in my riding of Burnaby, as a result of the combined impact of Tory economic policies since September, 1984, average families have \$1,304 less to spend on the goods and services they need to live. In turn, this has a devastating impact on local communities throughout the lower mainland and the rest of British Columbia. This money, instead of creating new wealth and new opportunity in Burnaby and elsewhere, will be siphoned back to Ottawa because of the Finance Minister's obsession with the deficit.

At the same time as the Finance Minister purports to be attempting to cut the deficit, what does he do? He gives a bonanza to the rich of a half a million dollar capital gains tax exemption while cutting back on the standard of living of the middle class and the poor. We as New Democrats want to know why, if the Minister is so committed to raising revenue and to reducing the deficit, is he doing it in this unfair and regressive way? Why is he not asking corporations, wealthy Canadians and the banks to shoulder their fair share of the burden?

The tax probe of the New Democratic Party which travelled across Canada suggested that the Government should eliminate tax breaks to corporations which, in many cases, do not generate jobs or give average Canadians a chance to spend more and thereby increase the over-all level of demand in the economy.

Let us look at some of the reasons for the request of \$22.6 in the Bill before the House flowing from the specific features of the Budget. Direct job creation has been cut by \$100 million. What an unconscionable signal to send to the 1.4 million unemployed Canadians, half a million of whom are young people, to cut spending on job creation.

Over the next four years, substantial cuts will be made in the Departments of Regional Economic Expansion, Agriculture, Health and Welfare, Transport, and the list goes on.

The Government as well has cut back in its support to the poorest in the global community, namely, foreign aid. Canada has a proud tradition of distinguished service in international development to assist the less advantaged people of the world. The Conservatives have turned their backs on this record, and what is worse, at the same time they are cutting back on the funds for the poor and the starving of the world they have increased funding for that sacred cow of military spending. It is less money for co-operative international development and more money for arms and the military.

What about my own province of British Columbia? With an unemployment rate of 12.3 per cent, higher in many regions of the province, surely the Government would address this crisis. Instead of putting money into creating jobs for young people, the Government has eliminated all funding for the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne). Some of us might argue that, given the proposed priorities of the Minister of State for Youth who suggested that federal Government funds should be going to fund PC youth federations, it is just as well she does not have any federal Government funds and that she was cut off.

**Mrs. Champagne:** How can you say that?

**Mr. Robinson:** We know the priorities of this Government. We know the Minister of State for Youth suggested that she wanted to fund PC youth federations out of public funds. The record speaks for itself. Many of us are pleased she did not get her hands on the pursestrings of the nation. God knows what she would have done coast to coast with those funds.

The Budget does nothing for British Columbia. Job creation has been cut back. This will particularly hurt the province of B.C. which is already reeling under the impact of a provincial Social Credit Government. There is no mention in the Budget for the forest and fisheries industries. There is no mention of the long standing call for direct job creation measures through the resource enhancement program. There is no mention whatever of additional funding to municipalities to help them create jobs by improving their infrastructures. One really wonders what the B.C. Tories have been doing these last few months. Atlantic Canada is suffering and it receives special attention in the Budget, but not a penny for British Columbia. There is no recognition of the fact that women tend to suffer adversely in times of economic downturn. There are no measures to deal with equality in the workplace. There is no mention of child care despite the excellent recommendation of the Cooke task force.

• (1510)

In the face of all this evidence we in the NDP clearly say no, we are not prepared to allow this Government to proceed with its agenda by giving it the borrowing authority it seeks. Average Canadians from coast to coast are being asked to foot the bill for this Government's economic incompetence. It is hypocrisy, it is unfair, and it will not address the very serious economic crisis facing this country. Canadians deserve far better economic leadership than this Government has thus far provided. It is time for a real change in this country. It is time for an NDP Government in Canada.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to take part in this debate on Bill C-99, an Act to provide borrowing authority, and on the amendment that the Bill be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

In the few minutes at my disposal, Mr. Speaker, I would simply refer to this famous borrowing authority and explain how the Government will spend that money borrowed directly from Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the National Capital Region which I represent in the Ottawa-Vanier riding has been hit very hard by the Conservative Budget and the Government's policies. It has been the target of the Conservatives ever since they took over. In my riding of Ottawa-Vanier, for example, the federal public administration accounts for 28 per cent of all economic activities, so it is important to us to know what kind of human