

*Borrowing Authority*

The Government takes away also from the fishing industry under the guise of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. In what should be a thriving fishing industry on the East and West Coasts, we find that fishermen have to go out to look for other areas of work, work that does not exist because of the way that this Government has run down the fishing industry as well. Lake Athabasca in the northern part of my constituency, which operates under the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, no longer has anyone fishing in the lake. This is the largest lake in the Province. It is now costing the fishermen more to transport their fish to the Strathcona plant in Winnipeg than the price they are receiving for their catch from the lake.

I believe, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that we are in very bad trouble. We are finding industries such as agriculture, fishing and manufacturing going down. Those people, especially in fishing and farming, are looking to other places for employment, either leaving agriculture and fishing, or looking to other areas to augment or supplement their incomes. But those jobs are not there in other areas as well, Mr. Speaker. I think that speaks volumes for the poor record of this Liberal Government.

• (1630)

I have many letters and, as you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, petitions which come in every week from my constituency asking that this Government do some sort of long-term planning that people can rely on for their own planning for the future. Canada should have a very vibrant economy. We have an abundance of natural resources and a very small population. If this Government cannot plan in such a way that our wealth can be distributed more equitably among the population of this country then I think the Government should go to the people of Canada and get the real message that people want to give to this Liberal Government.

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish). That is probably the closest that side of the House has come to moving over to a conservative stand.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fennell:** We are finally getting some wisdom from them. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, the whole world is going conservative. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has decided that his socialist programs are not working so he has turned over and is trying to go conservative. But I think it is too late for him and I hope we in the Opposition can build our support and become the next Government. I believe we will because we have been consistent, whereas the Liberals are inconsistent; they are up one day, down the next. So I commend the Hon. Member who just spoke. He hit on a number of very important points.

The Hon. Member referred to fishing and farming. That is a concern in my riding but not a large one because it is predominantly industrial and suburban. But we have the same problems in Ontario that they have in the West. There is no

difference between what is happening in our Province and what is happening in the Hon. Member's Province. Perhaps in his Province things may be moving ahead a little more with the aggressive policy which has been established out there, but this federal Government is not addressing the major problem of a lack of long-term planning. The last time I spoke in this House, and I have spoken so often on this—

**Mr. Fisher:** That is true.

**Mr. Fennell:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary knows how often I have had to speak against additional borrowing, five times in one year, and I think four of those were in about four months.

**Mr. Fisher:** We are accountable to Parliament.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** What you need is a good accountant.

**Mr. Fennell:** Does the Government not know it should have a plan that will last at least one fiscal year?

**Mr. Fisher:** Tell that to your finance critic.

**Mr. Fennell:** The Government brought in its budget and now it keeps hitting us with additional borrowing. Where is it going to stop? This is a sham. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) set our deficit this year at \$31 billion. He now indicates he does not expect it to be that bad. The game the Government is playing is very simple. It was going to be \$31 billion but, ladies and gentlemen, we have done such an excellent job of getting this economy back on the tracks that it is only \$25 billion. Well, Mr. Speaker, whether it be \$25 billion, \$30 billion or \$50 billion, it is too much and the country cannot stand it.

This will have a negative impact on future generations. We are not going to be taxing the present generation because all this money will do is to cover 50 per cent of the interest expense on this Government's debt. In 1968-69 when the Prime Minister came to office, there was an annual expenditure of about \$12 billion. I cannot get my hands on these figures, but I understand the debt was less than 10 per cent of what it is today. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Parliamentary Secretary across the way should, if the Minister of Finance is unable to, develop a schedule of how much money we owe, to whom and when it is due.

**Mr. Fisher:** Read the budget.

**Mr. Fennell:** My concern is with the deficit, Mr. Speaker, because I have five children. I do not know how many hundreds of thousands of children in my constituency will be faced with this debt. The borrowing goes on and on and it does not reflect any over-all Government planning. I call it a band-aid, but it is a hodge-podge where everything is sort of thrown together.

I believe an election is coming, Mr. Speaker, because the Government is paying off all these areas across Canada with make work projects. That is not solving our critical problem.