

*Borrowing Authority*

It is interesting to see that now the members of the Liberal Party are opposing what the Government is doing, saying it is not parliamentary, it is not right. They are correct. Their objection is valid. However, how soon they have forgotten that only a few years ago they were doing exactly the same when they were in government. The word hypocrisy is a mild word to describe this behaviour. How soon our friends across the way have also forgotten.

I was somewhat disappointed in the speech last night of the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). He was one of the most capable critics of the Government and of government borrowing Bills in this House. He was a man of integrity who thought out his arguments well and presented them forcefully. Members like the Hon. Member for Mississauga South and other Opposition members in both the Conservative Party and New Democratic Party succeeded in forcing the previous government to break down its borrowing authority Bill.

Let me warn the Minister and the Government that the very same tactics that the Conservative Party used in 1982 can be used again today against them. The business of this House can be brought to a standstill by the Opposition if the Government insists on breaking the rules and traditions of this House. The page that we will borrow is the page that the Conservative Party wrote in 1982. Let this Government be warned that we will not forget their opposition in the past. We will certainly raise that opposition if it continues to operate in the same manner that the Liberal government of the day acted.

It is somewhat distressing to hear the speeches of Hon. Members of this House, particularly Government members. Their depth of understanding of economic and government issues is very shallow. As I hear their remarks, I am reminded of religious cults like the Moonies. All I hear are simplistic phrases being bandied about, not just by back-benchers but by Ministers as well. They are simply solutions, as far as Government members' are concerned, to the problems facing the economy of Canada and the western world today.

The big bogymen is government—too much government spending which resulted in tremendous deficits, which in turn has yanked up interest rates. This has resulted in a downturn of economic activities. The solution is to bring down the deficit by slashing government spending; down go the interest rates, up goes growth, up goes job creation and hurrah, happy days are here again!

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

**Mr. de Jong:** I am reminded of the experiments of Dr. Pavlov. When certain stimuli were presented to the dog, the dog started to salivate. Just now, when I uttered certain key buzzwords, all at once Hon. Members of the Conservative Party break out in applause as though there were simplistic solutions to the problems that face our economy. They feel as though the tremendous economic, social and technological changes western civilization is going through can be resolved with just these simple measures.

● (1130)

As with the Moonies and as with all forms of religious cults and thought-control groups, it frightens me. It frightens me how complex and difficult problems can be reduced to simplistic phrases which, when heard by normally intelligent men and women, cause them to break out in this mad applause. The idea that there are simplistic answers to complex issues is, in the end, the essence of totalitarian thinking. It is the essence of communist and fascist mentalities.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, again we hear this rumbling. Obviously a nerve has been touched.

When looking at the evolution of human consciousness and the social history of the human race, one can see that there have been those simplistic solutions to complex issues in times of great social stress. This eventually leads to people trying to fit square pegs into round holes. I am afraid that Hon. Members are so convinced that this is the solution that, when it does not work, they will indeed attempt to fit a square peg into a round hole. That is my fear, Mr. Speaker.

Let us look at this simplistic solution that the Government has offered. The notion is that our deficit is much too high. I agree with that. I do believe that our deficit is much too high.

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

**Mr. de Jong:** Hon. Members applaud again. Let me educate them a bit. Let me suggest to them that in my home province, the Province of Saskatchewan, the Government has had a balance budget for years and years. When the so-called socialist horde composed of irresponsible spenders and freewheelers inherited the province in 1944, it was a province that was broke, that was in debt, that did not have an electrical system or a roads system. It had a population that was scattered over many, many miles. We were able to electrify that province and build a roads system second to none without incurring tremendous debts. When we were defeated in 1982, the budget of the Government of Saskatchewan had a surplus while the budgets of the Government of Alberta, the Government of B.C. and the Government of Ontario had deficits. Those were well-to-do provinces controlled by Tories.

Let us now take a look at Saskatchewan today. After two years of Tory rule, after two years of cut-backs in social programs, after two years of selling off provincial assets like Crown corporations and highway equipment, Saskatchewan has the highest accumulated deficit in the history of the province. All of the past deficits rolled into one cannot meet what has been done by the Tories in only two years.

Hon. Members are not applauding any longer. Is it a shock for Tories to realize that Tory governments have produced the largest deficit in the history of England, the United States and Saskatchewan? Surely that does not quite make sense in light of the rhetoric we have been hearing here. What is going on? Tories who are philosophically committed to balancing the budget end up in the end with record deficits by using Tory