

Borrowing Authority

This Government can only borrow and borrow and borrow, to spend and spend and spend even more. Ottawa's big spenders have determined that it will take \$89 billion—that is “b” as in “boondoggle”—to run this country.

Mr. Blenkarn: That is just a preliminary estimate.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): As my colleague points out, that is just a preliminary estimate. Have you any idea, Mr. Speaker, what \$89 billion means in terms that we laymen can understand? Breaking it down into \$1 bills, let me cite a fascinating analysis which appeared in the *Toronto Star* by Jim Emmerson on how far \$89 billion really can go. Given that folks have troubles with Air Canada's seat sales these days, why not own your own Boeing 747 jumbo jet? Boeing in Seattle says that it will fit you out with a sporty model that Air Canada flies for around \$94 billion. That means Canada's \$89 billion budget could buy an armada of 950 Boeing jumbo jets, sporty configuration.

An Hon. Member: That is not enough for the Cabinet.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): No, they do not have that many Cabinet Ministers yet. One of my colleagues says that that is not enough for the Cabinet. They only have 40 or 50 Ministers over there, so they would only need 40 or 50 Boeing jumbo jets. If you are a white-knuckle flyer, how about ground transportation by Rolls-Royce? How about a cozy little Rolls-Royce Corniche at a measly \$230,000 a copy? The \$89 billion spending plan of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) would get you roughly 356,000 Rolls-Royces. The list goes on. Mr. Speaker, you can make up your own examples of how far an \$89 billion spending budget might go.

Borrow, spend; borrow, spend; borrow, spend: that is the B-S principle, and we Canadians have had enough B-S from this Government without having to approve this Bill.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Right Hon. Member for Mount Royal, has a lot in common with Christopher Columbus. When Columbus left, he did not know where he was going. On his way he faced mutiny in the ranks. When he got to his destination, he thought that he was somewhere else. When he returned, he did not know where he had been. The entire voyage was financed through borrowed money. The similarity ends there, for that voyage was a commercial success. The Canadian ship of state is a vessel which resembles the *Titanic* far more closely than it resembles the *Santa Maria*.

This \$19 billion represents a 9.6 per cent increase for Government spending, proving that the Government cannot obey its own six and five guidelines. This Government of six and five is coming before us with a borrowing request for \$19 billion—\$5 billion this year, \$2 billion to carry over to next year, plus another \$14 billion,—that is \$16 billion for next year. This is absolutely the largest borrowing request in the history of this Parliament. The Government will probably require another \$19 billion after the \$16 billion is used up to carry it through the balance of the year. It has asked for a

total of \$26 billion to date, which clearly shows that this is a Government out of control.

If we are talking about the morality of obeying its own six and five guidelines, I think the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) said it for me and for the rest of Canadians when he said, as reported on page 22963 of *Hansard*:

There is certainly no leadership over there and certainly no morality, judging by the performance of the front bench opposite today and on previous occasions.

He was referring to the last week or ten days of distinct immorality which has been going on in the Liberal Government. He continued:

People expect moral and honest leadership from a Government, not the kind of sleazy leadership we are getting from that Minister—

He meant the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Gray).

—and other Ministers. They ask the old age pensioners and families with small children to exercise restraint while they spend money as if it were going out of style.

There is another aspect of this continuing problem of morality with which Parliament is seized these days that I would like to address briefly. At present there are no up-to-date forecasts to show that the Government needs \$5 billion for this year in new borrowing authority. This is in spite of the promises made last October by the present Minister of Finance that there would be a new budget before more authority was sought. He said:

In the budget I intend to present early in 1983, I will review again the fiscal situation for the current fiscal year, set out estimates for 1983-84 and future fiscal years, and then seek additional borrowing authority as required.

That speaks for itself. I realize that my ten minutes are coming to a close; I will wrap it up in 30 seconds. I simply want to say that anyone on a fixed income, anyone who is unemployed, or anyone who runs a family budget, will understand why my colleagues and I on this side of the House in the Progressive Conservative Party will oppose with all our might this outrageous borrowing Bill for an extra \$19 billion boondoggle.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are continuing today consideration of the amendment to the borrowing authority Bill proposed by the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), which essentially was designed to refer the question of an extended borrowing authority to committee. We think that this is a very rational approach and consistent with parliamentary practice, since it is not very often that the House gets asked for the right to borrow some \$19 billion without the presentation of any estimates, a budget or a statement concerning for what the extended borrowing authority will be used.

• (1210)

When I was doing my constituency tour, as I do several times during the year in order to visit the 90-some communities in my riding, the topic last October before this session resumed was that of the deficit. I tried to deal with Government expenditures and our unemployment problem. Through discussion we concluded that the extra expenditures the