

Borrowing Authority Act

tional borrowings that have gone on over the years and for this particular borrowing authority.

This contingency amount is to cover the impact of large and unpredictable foreign exchange operations on the financial requirements and to ensure that the Government will be able to continue its regular debt program in the event the House is not in session or has been dissolved. In essence, the contingency amount is designed to avoid any disruptions in the borrowing program which might lead to unnecessary disruptions in the exchange or capital markets which, in turn, might lead to upward pressure on interest rates. This is something which we on this side are determined to avoid. The Government will account for all the borrowing undertaken in a fiscal year. The Government will not borrow more than is necessary and it does not have to use up all the borrowing authority granted by Parliament. We know Government expenditures are controlled by Parliament and that the contingency does not permit spending beyond that reasonable amount. What we are looking at in this contingency amount is something that will give the Government flexibility in its financial operations. It will help to avoid unnecessary disruptions, as I have already mentioned.

Let me mention some of the initiatives from October, 1982. There was \$500 million allocated for the NEED program, which was very successful in creating much needed jobs. Certainly in the Atlantic area this was a welcome thrust to the economy during that difficult winter period. In April, 1983 we saw \$4.8 billion allocated over a four-year period under the Special Recovery Program. Indeed, every nook and cranny of the country has in one way or the other, directly or indirectly, benefited from this dynamic, positive thrust by the Government to protect those less fortunate and those unable to find work. There was \$1 billion allocated in December, 1983 for youth initiatives which came under the Youth Opportunity Fund. There was an additional \$400 million—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacDougall: Mr. Speaker, last week when I was making a speech during the debate on the Budget I was corrected by you in the chair for reading a speech. I was wondering whether you are prepared today to make a ruling concerning the Hon. Member who is now speaking.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): If the Hon. Member who has the floor is reading a prepared speech, he should abide by the rules of this House and speak without a prepared text.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Harquail: Mr. Speaker, that was a very unnecessary interruption by the Hon. Member. I do not have a prepared text.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Harquail: I am not reading from a prepared text. It is not my habit to read from a prepared text.

Mr. Crosbie: It would be of no help to you anyway.

Mr. Harquail: But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when I am talking about important matters, such as fiscal matters, I have with me reference notes with respect to figures. As is expected of me, I want to be accurate in the figures I quote and not adopt the practice of some Members to your left who are, from time to time, reckless with figures. I do not wish to resort to that practice.

Mr. Taylor: That is what the Hon. Member had when he was called to order.

Mr. Harquail: We know from long accepted practice that one should speak without a prepared text, and I assure you that I do not have such a prepared text.

Mr. Friesen: Methinks he protests too much.

Mr. Harquail: What I am referring to are the figures which I am quoting from documents that I brought forward in the preparation of my presentation today.

I want to tell the Opposition that it should get away from trying to instil fear in the Canadian people. Why do Opposition members not talk about positive things, such as what we are doing—

Mr. Crosbie: Where are they?

• (1530)

Mr. Harquail: The Opposition should look at the reason for this borrowing authority. We want to carry out the important transportation programs which have been adopted by the Government to improve our highway networks, our ports, our airports and all such facilities. I would like to talk for a moment about the transportation need. If our economy is to succeed, we must continue moving forward and creating more jobs. It goes hand in glove that we must have a good transportation system—a good highway transportation system, good and efficient ports, efficient airports and the like, not to mention the need for good highways when we talk about tourism. If we talk about inviting people to come to Canada, we must provide them with good highways to travel about our beautiful country. This is just one element which allows me to rise and speak in a positive way about the reasons for the need for improvements to the transportation facilities in the country. Also I would like to mention the other important programs which my Party has brought forward and this Government has sustained over the years in the area of health and social programs. We are constantly bringing forward new initiatives to assist our youth, our seniors and women who want to develop and hone their abilities to participate in the Canadian workplace. This is the complete *raison d'être* behind bringing forward this Bill at this time.

As I started to say, the continual traditional, narrow-minded role played by opposition Members in constantly nitpicking everything that is brought before the House does not go unnoticed by taxpayers. Surely Canadian people are on to this type of tactic and strategy—nothing is ever good, nothing is