

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons).

Mr. Simmons: It is all right, Mr. Speaker, I now have some information. As I was saying, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood can sit and laugh at those who elected him if he wants. He can poke fun at them for the next two or three years, but he is going to have to go back and meet them at the polls again in three or four years. Instead of looking for short-term clichés which fool some of the people, whether in Broadview-Greenwood or wherever, he ought to address himself responsibly to some of the problems of this country. If he did, he would long be remembered, and his contribution in this House would be much greater.

No time is ripe to increase taxes. No one on this side of the House is advocating that. I do not believe anyone who sits in this chamber, in opposition or in government, knows at this time whether there will be a tax increase.

That brings me to the rumour we hear from opposition benches about tax increases of all types. Nobody on this side of the House has decided whether there will be a tax increase. Where did the rumour come from? It is another convenient invention of the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood. He is trying to fool a few more people. The hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) has been fooling people for years.

Mr. Orlikow: He was a Liberal and a Conservative.

Mr. Simmons: We got rid of him. He was a Liberal, but he went to where he belonged. A convenient rumour has been invented by the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood and the hon. member for St. John's West to fool a few people and to convince them that somehow they are fighting their battles.

Whatever happens to be in the budget this government will bring to the House, there is one thing which will not be in it. If hon. members want specifics, I have them tonight. I have had a talk with the Minister of Finance. Facts are coming in all the time.

An hon. Member: Here comes John Evans.

Mr. Deans: Do you believe him?

Mr. Rae: If you believe Evans, you will never get anywhere. He wants to raise taxes.

Mr. Simmons: I can tell the armchair socialist from Broadview-Greenwood one thing about the budget; it will not contain an 18-cents a gallon gasoline tax.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rae: Will it be 17 cents or 17½ cents?

Mr. Simmons: He has started another rumour, Mr. Speaker. He can even make a rumour out of a suggestion of fact. This fellow can even twist a non-fact.

He has started his rumour-mongering already. Now he will rush out and say it will not be 18 cents but that it might be 17½ or 17¼.

Borrowing Authority Act

Mr. Knowles: Are all Newfoundlanders like that?

Mr. Lefebvre: Only the good ones.

Mr. Simmons: One of the real socialists opposite is the hon. member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish). To his credit, he is one of the real socialists. Why he is not going to Oslo with his brethren from Costa Rica I do not know. There is a difference between the real socialists and the armchair socialists like the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood. There is a difference not only in title and style but also in substance. The hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood calls for letting the deficit go to fight unemployment and to stave off recession. That is his cure-all, but the real socialist from The Battlefords-Meadow Lake has a different view altogether. As the NDP representative on the public accounts steering committee he says that the deficit of this government, which he says last year was \$16 billion—he is only \$4 billion out, but that is another issue—is shameful.

An hon. Member: The year is not over yet.

Mr. Simmons: The differences over there are very great. What is presented to the House as a united party is indeed a group of people searching *The Globe and Mail* for something about which to ask questions. That is the only thing that unites hon. members opposite. They all read *The Globe and Mail* at about 5.30 every morning to see what they can ask in the House.

I have a few more words to say about Bill C-30, which would give this government borrowing authority. It has become the in thing and the trendy thing all over the country to lament the size of the deficit.

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You gain a special respectability as a Tory if you go out and say the deficit is large. You do not remind the people of the Tory deficit when they were in power some years ago, a long time ago. They are not in power very often, but the last time they were in power for a length of time, back in 1957, 1958 and 1962, the deficit, if you remember, was about 34 per cent as compared to 24 per cent or 25 per cent now. They do not remind people of that, they just go on talking about how large the deficit is. This is the respectable thing to do. It establishes your credentials as a Tory to go around talking about the deficit and how large it is. To put it in another way, it is the litmus test.

An hon. Member: You better learn the language or you will get nowhere in the cabinet.

Mr. Simmons: It is the litmus test. If you wish to qualify as a profound scholar of public finance in this country, you have to talk about deficits and how large they are. It is the trendy thing to do these days. As I said, you have passed the litmus test; it shows you qualify as a Tory.

An hon. Member: As a Liberal, Roger.