

Borrowing Authority

I am glad that there is a bit more time and that I do not have to close off that fast. I do not mind having a borrowing Bill if I thought it was improving the quality of life. However, it is not.

This Government's Budget is hurting the future people who will be on unemployment insurance. It is hurting the people who have used VIA right across Canada, particularly in remote areas, to get to the cities for medical purposes or whatever. They have to go from Yarmouth to the Victoria General Hospital, or they have to go from Digby, Saulnierville, or Bridgetown to the Victoria General Hospital. There is no other way to go.

I say that because I am hearing it from the people. I attended the hearings. I am sure that over the next few weeks and months we are going to hear a lot more.

Why did the Member from the Magdalen Islands stand up and say that he wants the *status quo* for VIA? Why is he petitioning the Government with a petition from his people? It is because the cuts to VIA are going to affect everybody in Canada.

We could talk about allowing this Government to have the money, but I think it should be more responsible. Perhaps it should have cut in other areas, but it should be at least maintaining a fair standard of quality of life for all Canadians. If we have a program such as ACOA, as we saw in the East, why should we cut back on all of those applications? Those people have spent hundreds and thousands of dollars to prepare an application which they put in a year ago and it was not decided on. Then the rules changed and even to understand what the rules mean because of the change it will take a lot of dollars in government spending to go out and explain to the people. This is if there is money because we have not even been told that there is money in ACOA. We have not been told if there is money for the ERDA arrangements with the East.

This Bill will pass by virtue of the Government's large majority, but it must start realizing that it cannot be taking and taking and hurting all the small people in Canada.

• (1550)

In the last two weeks the Minister of Fisheries presented a policy on vessel replacement. I give this as an

example to my colleagues in the House. I refer to a man who had an application in for a loan from the provincial Government to replace a 37-foot lobster boat was told he had to go down to a boat of 32 feet. Why? It was because, unilaterally on April 1, the rules were changed.

What will that change in the rules mean? It will mean that this man will not fit in under the coast guard regulations. Nor will he fit in in terms of boat builders who are laying off many of their people since they now have to go out to find new moulds. The mould used for the 37-foot boat will have to be replaced by a mould for a 32-foot boat. It sounds complicated. I have to say that it is complicated. It is so complicated that the fishermen, the ship builders, and all their workers have been asking to come to see the Minister and to appear before the committee. However, time is running out. The House will shut down at the end of June. They are not the only group which wants to come.

I see that you are signalling to me that my time is up, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak today. I have to say that of course I oppose this borrowing authority. I do not think it is a reasonable approach to satisfy the needs of all Canadians. The Government has satisfied only the needs of the big interest groups in Canada.

Mr. Thompson: Madam Speaker, I listened with great delight as the Hon. Member for South West Nova prattled on about some obvious problems that she sees. The point we have to underline is that many of the problems with which we have to deal are problems that we inherited when we formed the Government in 1984. The Hon. Member conveniently disregards the fact that in 1984 we inherited a \$200 billion deficit. Members of that former Liberal Government brag about the fact that they left the cupboard bare. They are on the record as having stated that they left the cupboard bare. Consequently, we were left paying the bills for that Liberal Government. We are still paying them.

Mr. Milliken: You keep talking about it, but you don't do anything about it.

Mr. Thompson: As the Hon. Member concluded her arguments in this debate, she mentioned some of the complicated issues with which she is dealing. I think she unnecessarily complicates them.