

Time Allocation

because the Iron Ore Company has stopped paying for these services. And thanks to the Canadian taxpayers the Scheffer-ville people can enjoy these services in spite of the current hard times.

I hope, therefore, that our hon. colleagues opposite will show a greater sense of responsibility by accepting to end these discussions and dispose of this bill, which will trigger an immediate upturn in our economy, for Canadians no longer want talk but action.

● (1540)

[English]

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, this is the second time in a few months that I have risen to address the subject of closure. The Government continues its old practice of pushing and shoving, then using a club to get what it wishes rather than using the time-proven method of consultation, full information and then negotiation to get its legislation through. This group under the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) gives us little or no information, instead of full information. Instead of consulting, it tells us it knows what is best for us. Instead of negotiation, it says to the House of Commons, "Stuff it! If you do not like what we want, we'll just push it through with Standing Order 75 anyway".

Let us look at the record. This Government has used Standing Order 75, 19 times, counting this time. Is it any wonder, given this process and the process, which I will outline, of introducing this Bill, that we are questioning it? Is it any wonder, given the actions of this Government in the last few weeks—and I will just speak about the last few weeks—regarding the actions of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) in the coal project, and the money wasted there, or the payment of \$800 per day to Mr. Macdonald to check into the economy? We all know what is wrong with the economy. There are many people out there unemployed who would like one-eighth of \$800 per day just to keep them going. With the constant examples of waste and questionable spending, which are put before this House by the Auditor General and by Hon. Members of Parliament each and every day, is it any wonder that we, the Opposition, are questioning the Government when it puts before us a borrowing Bill of this magnitude? The Minister says, "Well, you have before you this great book of Estimates", I believe he said there were thousands of pages, I cannot remember how many.

Miss Carney: Six thousand.

Mr. Schellenberger: Yes, 6,000 pages. Open for scrutiny there are the great spending practices of the Government. Well, every Hon. Member of Parliament knows just how well you can scrutinize the Estimates by looking in that big Blue Book. It is impossible to go through it adequately without the proper staff. The Government is using this absolute power—and that is what the closure motion is, absolute power—and we are questioning the ability and the practice of this Government to use this method time after time after time. We can

only hope that the Government will be remembered for what it has done and by the way it is using the power which Canadians have given to it, or which it has taken for itself.

Rather than building confidence, which is so necessary in this country at this point, this Government asks first for \$5 billion, then for \$14 billion, or \$19 billion all in one bite, in one piece of legislation. Is it no wonder that such a deep psychological barrier exists in this country? No activity is taking place. The psychological barrier is in place and, as a result, we have a self-fulfilling predicament. We have lower than anticipated revenues. The Government tells us we need more revenue because business taxes are down. Why are business taxes down? Because businesses are going into insolvency, bankruptcy, or just trying to save themselves as we go through this recession which we have been put into. We have more unemployment, therefore there are fewer people paying taxes and, as a result, we have less consumer spending and fewer businesses which are able to survive. It is a self-fulfilling predicament which goes round and round. People who have the ability to participate in consumer spending are concerned that they may be next. As a result of this thinking they are putting their money into savings when they should be spending that money and helping the country get back on its feet.

Instead of a borrowing Bill of this magnitude, Mr. Speaker, if the Government needs some money for the next few months it should present a borrowing Bill of less magnitude and then a plan for recovery to put confidence back into the private and public sector and get us on the road to recovery. What do we have instead? We have Bills presented to us to implement budgets which have done nothing but create a lack of confidence in this country, and we have this borrowing Bill. Instead of assisting business, we have raises in taxes, increases in UIC premiums, the Provinces have increased Workmen's Compensation payments, federal Government increases of 12.5 per cent in small business taxes, a 50 per cent decrease in capital cost allowances in the first year, and limits in interest deductions for new capital expenditures. If these are the kinds of positions which are put forward to create confidence in the business section, it is just not there, Mr. Speaker. Instead, we have the largest borrowing Bill in Canadian history, a Bill which has been introduced without any formal forecast.

A few figures were thrown out by the Minister of Finance and they are supposed to be adequate for the House of Commons to accept a \$19-billion borrowing Bill. No new budget was put before us as the Minister of Finance promised he would do before coming to Parliament for additional borrowing. We have the Government saying instead, "Trust us. Give us this \$19 billion. We need it to start off the spring on the right foot." Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that we are debating this Bill, or trying to, that we in the Opposition are placing squarely before the Government the kind of record it has and the kind of change which we would like to see in this country through debate? We are asking for forecasts. We are asking for reasons. We are asking for logic. We are asking for some hope for the businessmen, the farmers, the workers and