

startups in labour intensive industries like retail, service and distribution are ignored.”

The indexed security investment plan will be of use in attracting equity investment in large firms but no offsetting measures are offered for small business. The Liberal's national energy policy has virtually destroyed the oil and gas industry. It has brought energy investment to a halt and stopped megaprojects which would have created thousands of jobs across Canada. The Special Recovery Capital Projects are a drop in the bucket compared to the lost megaprojects.

● (1620)

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, it does not give me necessarily a great deal of pleasure to participate in the debate here this afternoon because I believe this Bill is a rather shocking record of the Government across the floor from us. We are in second reading of Bill C-151, the borrowing authority, where the Government is asking us for \$14.7 billion to continue its general business of running, or lack of proper running, of the Government of Canada. This is in addition to \$16 billion for which it still has borrowing authority approved under Bill C-143, which was passed by Parliament in February.

The reason this is so shocking, Mr. Speaker, is that since June, 1982, the Government has come to us, the Parliament of Canada, to ask for borrowing authority, including this time, on five separate occasions. There was Bill C-111 in June, 1982, in which the Government asked for \$6.6 billion. Then it came back with Bill C-125 and asked for \$7 billion. Following that there was Bill C-128 in which it asked for \$4 billion. Then there was Bill C-143 in which it asked for \$19 billion. Now there is Bill C-151 in which it is asking for \$14.7 billion. That is an accumulated amount of \$51.3 billion, Mr. Speaker, since June, 1982, until the present time, a period of one year. That is an average of over \$4 billion a month which this Government is asking to borrow so that it can sustain the general operations of the Government which it has created. I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that part of the problem is that there is a real lack of planning by this Government. There is certainly no long or medium-term planning. At best, there may be some short-term planning which comes into practice in the programs.

The Government purports to be doing good for the Canadian people, but I would suggest it is doing very little by way of good for the Canadian people when one looks at the horrendous amount of the national debt which has accumulated over the years from the deficit budgets of this Liberal Government. We are finding that an ever increasing amount of the general revenue which is coming in is going toward paying interest on the national debt. It is coming to a point where the taxpayers of this country can no longer afford to sustain a Government which goes on a spending spree which can be compared somewhat to that of a drunken sailor. Unless we start doing some long-term planning in this country, we are going to find ourselves in a position of not being able to maintain any sort of decent standard within the federal Government.

Borrowing Authority

If one looks back to the time after the February election in 1980, one finds that we in western Canada were promised a Western Development Fund of some \$4 billion. I would like to find out where that Western Development Fund is today, Mr. Speaker, because we have never seen it come into reality in western Canada. It is just the same as many of the programs promised in eastern Canada which have never come into existence. There have been false and empty promises, and that aggravates me and it is why it does not give me a great deal of pleasure to even participate in the debate today in this House of Commons on this borrowing authority Bill. When we asked questions about the Western Development Fund, we were told that it is still in the planning stage. When we asked where the money was, they said it had not been appropriated as yet. When we asked which Minister was in charge of the Western Development Fund, they knew not which Minister was in charge of it. When we asked which programs fall under the Western Development Fund, they could not tell us. I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that there never was a Western Development Fund. It was an attractive bit of verbiage which was put into the Throne Speech when this parliamentary session first started back in the Spring of 1980.

That Western Development Fund, which was much talked about, was dreamed up in order to grab some headlines in the press for the present Liberal Government. Some people thought that maybe it would be at least a patronage program for some areas of the country, but it was not even that. The Western Development Fund did not exist. There were no special appropriations set out for a Western Development Fund. Instead of that, the bolstering up of the economy in western Canada has gone in reverse. Government has taken away from the economy of western Canada, particularly from farming.

In our agricultural sector we find that farm bankruptcies this year are up 130 per cent over the same period last year. In addition to that, an increased burden is being placed upon the farmers, the producers in Canada, by removing the statutory Crow rate. Just what does that mean? I will pick two delivery points, Mr. Speaker, one being that of The Battlefords, where, by the year 1990, just the cost to the farmers who deliver to that delivery point alone would be an additional \$1.15 million per year. For the town of Meadow Lake, a population of only 4,000 people or a little less, to deliver to that one delivery point would take out of the pockets of the farmers \$1.43 million per year. Depending on which agricultural economist you want to listen to, that agricultural dollar has a multiplier effect of between four to seven times. Therefore, in the Meadow Lake area alone, for the farmers who deliver to the elevators at Meadow Lake it could cost very close to \$10 million a year out of that community. In The Battlefords it would be almost an equal amount. So instead of saying the Government is helping us by these great programs which it is putting into place, it is actually helping our country deteriorate in an economic sense. I believe that the consequences of that will have social repercussions which this Liberal Government will grow to regret in the years to come.