

Borrowing Authority Act

Mr. Malone: I listened to the speech made yesterday by a member of the NDP, and I thought it was a good speech. He said that appropriations should be divided up into quarters and accounted for by the government on a quarterly basis. That makes sense to me. As a matter of fact, I would think that is the most logical thing we could expect and that the citizens of Canada should expect the presentation of a budget. The basis of that budget gives a projection on how we intend to spend money. On the basis of how we make the projection, then the government has the right to say, "This is the way in which we will spend it". At the present time we have a total deficit of \$66 billion and a request for an additional \$12 billion. We also have the knowledge that if we add on to that the service and interest charges, it will cost Canadians over \$80 billion.

● (2130)

We ran out of billionaires in my constituency a long time ago. We do not have any. In fact, our millionaires are very limited. But if one took a dollar bill which is precisely six inches long and laid one million of them end to end, that million dollars would stretch for approximately 85 miles. If one took a billion dollars, it would go from Vancouver to Halifax and back five times. The government is asking us to give them 12 of those so that they can spend them without giving any idea to the people or the Parliament of Canada as to what they want the money for. They indicate that they just need \$12 billion and they expect us to say, "Yes". Why are they requesting \$12 billion, for what reason? Perhaps they need only \$6 billion or \$11 billion. Surely it is unacceptable that the government can ask for \$12 billion without the slightest indication as to what the money will be used for. That is unacceptable. It shows what I see as the style of the Liberal government. They love to spend money, but they do not care very much about accountability to Parliament. They do not care very much about how much they must tax people or the debt. Within their mentality of running the Parliament of Canada, power becomes more important than achievement, power becomes more important than Canadians and the purpose for which they became the government in the first place.

If any citizen of this country loses his Chargex or Master-Charge, he should worry and immediately phone the head offices of those companies to let them know his cards were gone. But if he ever lost them around Parliament Hill in the presence of Liberal members of Parliament, he ought to change his identity and get out of the country as quickly as possible. There is only a 24-hour protection period, and they have the ability to run up a debt quickly. So, he should not leave his cards lying around this place.

I should like to change the emphasis of my thoughts for much of the remaining time I have this evening. I want to talk as an Albertan and as a Canadian about one of the very important problems facing our country at this time. I should like to reflect to a large extent upon energy and the way in which I think a new approach to the energy question in fact could provide us with a situation where we would not have to go out and borrow money at the present rate. It would provide all Canadians with a far higher and greater sense of wealth

than exists at the present time in this nation. At this moment in 1980, we in Alberta do not need more tar sands plants, smoke stacks or industrialization. But there is a view among Albertans that as Canadians they must accept the fact that there is a need for more energy in Canada. For reasons which will affect our lifestyle, we do not want the influx that will bring us a great deal more labour, a great deal more welfare, hospital and school costs. We must accept the burden that in the national interest we need to assist somehow in getting away from our dependency on foreign energy, but we will not take a rapidly depleting resource and simply put it on the shelf at any value. We must be aware of what will happen if western provinces go down the tube. I should like to tie in the important question of energy with the important question of borrowing. In fact energy is one item of cost that could provide more money for the running of government than is necessary. At the present time we are importing some 500,000 barrels of oil per day. The cost this year will be some \$3 billion. That means that we are taking an amount of money out of the pockets of Canadians and simply transplanting it somewhere else in the world. It goes to Venezuela, Mexico or some country in the Middle East. It does not create a single job in Canada. It does not roll a piece of pipe out of any of our steel mills dotted across the country. It does not employ anybody and it does not use a Canadian resource. I cannot understand why the government is so bent on paying the world price for Mexican oil when it cannot even make a suitable deal for Canadian oil from Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia. It is obvious and well known that there is an agreement with the provinces to give a price at below the world price that would enable us to become self-sufficient in energy and would place us at a competitive advantage far and above that of the world situation.

We must recognize that the governments of western Canada are willing to make our country self-sufficient in energy. It should also be noted that in the past number of years we have lost money in the production of oil out of the tar sands. Any money which has accrued to the coffers of Alberta came from what we call traditional supply, the old pumped oil. A report released three weeks ago indicated that traditional supply has a limited capacity of about another 11 years. That resource took the people in my province from the old coal oil lamps, the drafts and the old Eaton's catalogues in the outhouses into a province which enjoyed a standard of living equal to that of other more well-to-do provinces in the country. I say to all members of the House quite sincerely that the citizens of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are still quite young. They remember all too well what it was to be living in a situation of poverty in the prairies. Every boy and girl growing up there today is just one generation away from a reminder of what it was like not to be a part of the central mainstream of wealth in this nation. It should also be understood that in the 1910s and the 1920s we knew that there was an oil production capacity in those provinces. We rapped and rapped upon the doors of the money markets of central Canada. We begged for them to come and help us develop. There was nary a response