

were to stack a billion dollars one on top of the other, I could not imagine how high that would be, but it would certainly be a very significant pile of dollar bills.

Mr. Bussi eres: What do you have to say about relativity?

Mr. Mazankowski: There is another rule, in Beauchesne, which says members should be given sufficient latitude to make their point. That is precisely what I have attempted to do. This bill should not be passed until a budget has been presented to the House. It should not be passed until we have heard from the government a statement of its fiscal and monetary policy. I am not sure we have passed the 1978 budget in all its details—

● (2010)

An hon. Member: No!

Mr. Mazankowski: My hon. friend says no. So the last budget we passed in detail was the 1977 one. Moreover, earlier today the minister left us with the impression that there is no assurance of a budget forthcoming this fall. So where are we going in terms of an economic and financial program?

There is a second point and one which is clearly related to our economic fortunes. It is the lack of an oil pricing agreement.

Mr. Blenkarn: We had one.

Mr. Mazankowski: We had one in December. Since then there has been shilly-shallying and wavering. We are farther away from agreement now than we ever were last year. What are the priorities which guide this government?

Mr. Blenkarn: They have none.

Mr. Mazankowski: We have been dealing with housekeeping legislation. I thank my hon. friend from Mississauga. He has made a couple of good speeches and he is helping me with this one. His interventions indicate the depth of his feelings on this legislation. A great deal was said in the Speech from the Throne, but no concrete proposals have been forthcoming to put those varied promises into effect. In spite of all the hoopla at Winnipeg, nothing came out of it to indicate where Canada was going, and I must say westerners are increasingly suspicious of the government. There is not much to boast about in terms of what the government has done for the west. The Speech from the Throne talks about the development of our economic potential. That is sheer rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

I could quote a passage from a popular magazine in Alberta, *The Alberta Report*, a magazine which I will bring to the attention of all those who claim to be interested in Alberta. It points out that notwithstanding the government's professed renewed commitment to western Canada, over the last 12 years the Liberal party while in power has made every conceivable attempt to destroy western Canada. The Western Economic Conference in 1973 committed itself to expand markets for chemical and agricultural products in the United States. But it provided nothing.

Borrowing Authority Act

The same Liberal government promised to improve the grain transportation system. The last year in which this new-old government held office was the worst on record in terms of grain movement. It cost hundreds of millions of dollars, as well as a lot of our reputation.

An hon. Member: You seem enthused.

Mr. Mazankowski: I am enthused because I have a very deep feeling about this doubletalk. I heard someone suggest I should talk about the rest of Canada. I thought members over there wanted to know more about western Canada. They say they are committed to western Canada. I would give them a lesson, if they would shut up and listen. This is the government which in 1974 vigorously opposed wage and price controls—and then introduced them. This is the government which promised federal aid to municipal transport systems—and produced nothing whatsoever. It is the government which, in 1968, called for restraint—and in the next ten years quadrupled government spending. It is the government which, elected after pledging an increase of less than \$4.50 per barrel of oil, now says that it meant less than \$7.50. That is in a report from *The Alberta Report* of May, 1980. That is not coming from my lips. That comes from the lips of a dedicated, earnest, and committed publisher in Canada who has witnessed the history of this country and who has seen what is happening.

What are the priorities of the party over there? What about a deep sea fleet? The minister says he is in favour of it, but the rest of the cabinet says we cannot afford it. What about improving the marine sector? There has been no statement of policy from the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin). What are we going to do to improve the operations of the Seaway and give its users a greater opportunity to manage and operate it? What about the coastguard service? What are we going to do to improve the effectiveness of that service, particularly in terms of re-equipping the coastguard fleet which, like the state of our armed forces, has long been deteriorating?

The rhetoric we read in the Speech from the Throne has not been followed up by definitive proposals. The only thing we have heard is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) fanning the flames and warning the provinces, comparing the actions of Alberta to the separatists' motives in Quebec—I hope I do not see the minister nodding his head in the affirmative. The Minister of Transport suggested that Alberta is engaged in a war over economic sovereignty and compared it with Quebec. Shame on that minister! The fact was, they wanted it their way or no way at all. And at the same time the Speech from the Throne lectured us on the need to represent the nation to the west. I ask the government to do likewise—to represent the nation to the west and also to represent the west to the rest of Canada, particularly in the House of Commons and in the hallowed halls of the cabinet.

What are we offered? There is the ludicrous proposal of twinning. I say it is preposterous and insane. If that is representative of the actions we can expect in the future, I am sure the great desire of members opposite to attract political support in western Canada will not get off the ground. All we