

[Translation]

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, if question No. 4,048 could be made an order for return, that return would be tabled immediately.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the other questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the hon. parliamentary secretary have been answered. Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 4048 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

GOVERNMENT HIRING POLICIES

Question No. 4,048—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did the government place advertisements in newspapers calling for applications for jobs in which applicants are restricted to those of certain racial or ethnic backgrounds and, if so, what are all the details of the advertising and is the government following a policy of racism?

2. Does the government realize that (a) the majority of Canadian people support giving all possible advantages to Canada's native peoples (b) by restricting certain jobs to specific groups only, it is excluding other nationalities and Canadian citizens who might wish to apply?

3. Is it the government's intention to adopt a policy to exclude blacks, whites or any other sections of the population in the future and, if so, what is the justification for such a practice?

Return tabled.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

• (1530)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1982-83

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)) moved that Bill C-111, to provide supplementary borrowing authority, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Bussières moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

He said: Madam Speaker, this is the third time I shall have an opportunity to speak to this bill, since we had to divide the

Borrowing Authority Act

original bill, which dealt with the borrowing authority and certain amendments to the Excise Tax Act. Considering the fact that debate has been limited to a single day, today I shall be very brief in my comments and shall only raise some of the more important aspects of this legislation.

[English]

As hon. members are aware, Bill C-111 seeks parliamentary approval of borrowing authority for 1982-83 in the amount of \$6.6 billion. The bill has been debated in the House and hon. members have been able to put questions about the bill to both myself and to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) during our appearances before the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. Consequently, hon. members are quite familiar with the reason for and the contents of the bill, and I will not elaborate further on these matters.

At this time I would like to discuss the basis for the amount of borrowing authority being requested and to point out to hon. members that it will not be adequate for the whole fiscal year. Much of what I am going to say has already been said by the Minister of Finance when he appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, but I would like to repeat the essence of his comments to the House today.

Hon. members will recall that the request for \$6.6 billion borrowing authority for 1982-83 is based on the estimated budgetary and non-budgetary financial requirements as set out in the budget which was presented to Parliament last November 12. These requirements were based on a forecast of Canadian economic growth that was current at that time. Since the calculations were made for that budget there has been a major slowing down of worldwide economic growth. In fact, most of the industrialized world is now suffering from an economic recession. It is important to note that the economic problems facing Canada are similar to the economic problems facing all major industrialized countries. All these countries, including Canada, to a greater or lesser degree are facing problems of persistent inflation, rising unemployment and slow growth.

In Canada, although budgetary projections did forecast some weakness, the depth of this recessionary period was not anticipated when the budget forecast was being prepared. Today the Canadian economy is in a much weaker position than it was last November, and this has had and will continue to have an obvious impact on government revenues and expenditures and, consequently, on the fiscal position and financial requirements.

Mr. Epp: In other words, you are broke.

Mr. Bussières: As a result of these developments we expect the financial requirements will be larger, and we expect we will