

Borrowing Authority Act

what happens under inflation of the kind the Liberal Government has brought about?

Liberal back-benchers do not stand up in the House, Mr. Speaker, and I do not care about that, but they should be standing up in caucus and telling Cabinet Ministers that if the Cabinet does not get the deficit under control, they will stay out of the House or rise and vote against the Cabinet. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if any P.C. cabinet of the future tried to do what this one has done, there is no way I would support them.

Under our system of parliamentary government, the Cabinet or executive is responsible and must be accountable to all of us as ordinary back-bench Members of Parliament. We have to do our job. If a cabinet of whatever stripe fails to do its job, we have an obligation and a duty, not only in democracy but in law, to bring that Cabinet down. Liberal members opposite have not done that. They have not fulfilled their duty to the country. Surely that duty is not only to the people who are living today, to the senior citizens who are in poverty and the young people who do not have an opportunity to go to university or buy a business. They have a duty to our children and our grandchildren as well. That is their real failing, Mr. Speaker. Liberal members on the opposite side have no sense of the future. That is typical of a radical, left-wing socialist group. That group wants to remake mankind on one giant, quantum legislative leap. As a result, government Members pass laws and get themselves into troubles which they cannot get out of because they do not have a sense of the future. They have no sense of what it means to build a country like John A. Macdonald and John Diefenbaker did.

In 1968 there was a minuscule national debt. There was a balanced budget and yet in 1968 there was Old Age Security, health insurance and medicare. There was a post-secondary education system and the economy was generating 10 jobs for every one of us who came out of the university system in 1968. What do we have now? There is now a national debt that, including Crown corporations, amounts to over \$200 billion. Over 35 per cent of every tax dollar goes to service the debt. That 35 per cent of every tax dollar goes into the hands of people in this society who already have incredible wealth.

With another decade of rule under Liberal members, we will be like all of the Third World countries. There will be a small group of people who have massive wealth and there will be a huge class of poor people. What the Government is doing, as any radical, left-wing socialist government does, is destroying the middle class. The middle class is that great buffer that avoids extremes in language, religion or economic matters. The middle class is a great buffer against extremism. However, once the Government has destroyed that middle class, we will find extremism in this country. Unfortunately, it will be ourselves, our children and our grandchildren who will suffer.

Our grandchildren will look back and wonder how it could have been that in 1968 we had balanced budgets and a tiny national debt even though we had just come through a major depression and a World War that required an enormous drainage of wealth from ordinary citizens. In 1968 everything

was fine until we elected that Government across the way and the ordinary Liberal back-benchers, in order to be re-elected again and again, got us into a deficit situation.

It is true that one can fool all of the people some of the time and one can buy the people with their own money. Besides creating the deficits, Mr. Speaker, another despicable thing government Members have done is pit one region of the country against another. They were prepared to go to the people of central Canada and say: "If you vote for us, we will get that western petroleum energy for less than world price". However, were they prepared to go against the hydro-electric power that is produced in the central provinces? Certainly not, Mr. Speaker. There is no export tax on hydro-electricity but there is on petroleum energy. Are there six individual taxes imposed on hydro-electricity in the country? Certainly not. However, there are on petroleum energy.

People in the west are simply fed up. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that they have had enough of this. If the Liberal Government is re-elected again, there will be an uprising in the west that you will never forget because it will tear this country asunder, and it will happen because that Government has not done its job.

● (1140)

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words to the debate on Bill C-21, an Act to provide borrowing authority to the federal Government. Today the federal Government is asking for authority to borrow some \$29.5 billion which would allow it to gather in enough money to operate for the coming fiscal year. It has also asked for a \$4 billion contingency over and above the amount actually set out in the Estimates.

As it bothers the Conservatives, it also bothers me that we are in a perpetual debt situation. In the past I have said that if it is necessary to have deficit financing, so be it, but it cannot be ongoing. Any government deficit financing, whether it be federal, provincial or municipal, must be viewed as an investment in the future so that at some point there will be a return on the money borrowed. That is not the case today. The ongoing deficit financing of the Government has brought us to a situation where by the time the borrowing authority is approved—and because of the Government's majority it will be approved—the debt will amount to over \$70 billion. At some point that has to stop, Mr. Speaker. There is no business, no law practice and no government that can continue with deficit financing and still operate as we do in this country.

What bothers me as much as the deficit financing that so many governments go into today, particularly the Liberal Government, is what the Conservatives say in this House. Their record in the federal Government is not a very long one. The Conservative provincial governments have also shown a dismal performance. Indeed, some of the things that the Conservatives in this House criticize are evident in the actions of Conservative provincial governments.

The Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) was quoted in *Maclean's* magazine on July 12, 1982 as saying "If I