

*Borrowing Authority*

good for Australians. That is not the case, Mr. Speaker, and it is not the kind of statement that builds confidence.

• (1240)

I suspect that the scorched earth policy that the Government has introduced, the fact that 1.6 million people are unemployed and that the Estimates tell us that the Government's commitment to direct job creation is an increase of \$100 million from last year, all demonstrate very clearly that solving the problem of unemployment in the country is not a priority. The Government has another priority. As the Minister of Finance told us recently, the Government is not interested in promoting a major stimulus in order to get people back to work. Contrary to what the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said recently, the Minister of Finance now says the Government is backing off from that idea and this hesitation is gaining strength in caucus and in Cabinet.

I want to end my remarks by saying that economic recovery in the country cannot occur when 1.6 million people are out of work and increasing numbers of people are threatened with losing their jobs. The consuming public must regain confidence before recovery can occur. But this confidence will not build while people see their neighbours out of work and face the prospect of unemployment themselves.

I make a plea to Members of the Government, Mr. Speaker, to see to it that the budget contains serious, major and bold steps toward short-term and long-term job creation. Unless it does, economic recovery will not occur in 1983 as we had all hoped it would.

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity this afternoon to speak on this Bill. I will address it from a very positive point of view rather than a negative point of view and make some concrete suggestions about what the Government might do with the \$19 billion it intends to borrow. I take it as a positive sign that the Government has not yet made any announcement about the plans for the utilization of that \$19 billion, a sum that would have made old "What's a million" C. D. Howe blush with shame.

I think it is unfortunate that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), who was in his place a short time ago and obviously has other business, is no longer present. The bulk of what I have to say and the suggestions that I will make during the short time available to me will be directed to transportation and in particular to matters that I have dealt with in the House from time to time in the past. I think my remarks will be of particular interest to the Department of Transport and to the Minister.

I feel it is vitally important for the future confidence of Canadians that they feel that this enormous sum of money will be utilized for the benefit of Canadians generally rather than for a select few in a select area for a period of time of short duration. What they are talking about is something that is close to the heart of all Canadians—their future and their jobs.

The Government has taken the position that, in the final analysis, the six and five program may prove to be of some

benefit to Canadians. I hope that will be the case but I think the program has to be implemented and has to be shown to be implemented to the benefit of all Canadians.

I want to stress the issue of the six and five program in relation to the CPR, Mr. Speaker, and the fact that the CPR has become part of the legislation. It has included its employees in the legislative process; it has legislated its employees into the six and five program. We know that the CPR is the beneficiary of a great amount of money through various Government programs, not the least of which is the Crowsnest agreement and other subsidies, such as those conferred on VIA Rail and through other associations with the government.

I think it is necessary that we petition the CPR on behalf of its employees. I know that many Hon. Members have concerns both outside and inside Canada, such as the right of human beings to live in dignity and in the style that we as Canadians should be accustomed to. My plea will be for those employees of the CPR who are particularly affected by the six and five restraint program yet who, unfortunately, are not being treated in a manner which befits an industry of such substance and of such high profile in this country as the CPR.

I want particularly to refer to the group of Canadians who belong to the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks in the Saint John region of New Brunswick. They are concerned about their future, the future of their families and their jobs. They have been tied to the six and five program since its implementation. Their main concern is job security, as many of them have lost jobs. For some of them the job future is bleak. They have petitioned Members of Parliament to urge the Government to impress upon the CPR its responsibility to the community to act as a good corporate citizen benefiting from the six and five program.

I urge the Minister of Transport to appeal to the CPR to recognize that job security is not only vital to the individuals involved but is vital to the security of the entire region. Many of these people have lost their jobs and now other jobs are in doubt. Twenty-eight jobs have been lost in the customer service centre, 62 truckers in the Saint John area recently lost their jobs and there are rumours that another 17 jobs will be lost in the McAdam and Saint John area by May 1. All these people are entitled to know what the future holds and they are also entitled to benefit from some of the money that will accrue to Canadians through the Government's proposal to borrow this \$19 billion.

I am glad to see the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Lumley) in his seat. Two months ago I questioned him about the shipbuilding policy review that the Government had announced. I asked him when he would be undertaking implementation of that legislation for the benefit of shipyard workers in the Saint John area. At that time the Minister assured us that, if we gave him some assurance of co-operation in the passage of the Bill, he would introduce it forthwith or within a very short period of time. We have anxiously awaited