

*Borrowing Authority Act*

of Canadian voters once again? Does the Government want to use these billions of dollars to deceive Canadians or buy their votes with all kinds of projects, in a manner that is most irresponsible, Mr. Speaker? These are questions we must ask ourselves. We must bear in mind the financial situation of the Government and its commitments concerning a whole range of projects, because it will probably not act responsibly in the next six months, as we know very well that there is indeed a good chance that this Government will be defeated in the next election. Besides showing disrespect for the Canadian people, the Government does not hesitate to increase its spending, but it even refuses to rationalize them. These \$4 billion in additional borrowing, about which we intend to move an amendment to force the Government not to borrow more than it needs, could be used by the Government to make electoral promises, and since it knows that it is very unlikely to continue governing the country, it could not care less about proposing such huge expenditures.

● (1720)

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are not taken in, they see their Government sinking deeper every day, they realize it has no intention of controlling the expenses of its own corporations, they are aware of all that and have to pay for the waste of public funds as a result of mismanagement. Instead of taking corrective measures and making drastic changes in the management of some of those corporations, the Government looks the other way. And, of course, Canadians will pick up the pieces and pay for the deficits of those corporations as though it was the normal thing to do. But the men and women appointed to run those corporations are not going to be replaced, although they are almost as incompetent as the Government.

Under such circumstances, Mr. Speaker, how can we have a positive response while our colleagues opposite remain silent? On behalf of the Canadian people, we are still asking this Government to be more reasonable and to cut down our national debt.

We know quite well that this Government is acting rather irresponsibly, as though the capacity to pay of individual Canadians were an unlimited source of funds. They operate as though there were no limit to the capacity to pay of Canadians; this is why the Government is running up its debt. We cannot overemphasize the fact that this is getting the upcoming generations into debt and mortgaging their future.

In view of these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, we must ask this Government to assume its responsibilities to the Canadian people and the nation. It must act responsibly when the boards of Crown corporations make certain decisions. Here is a small example which may help the Hon. Members and the Canadian public to better understand the situation.

Recently, a former Minister and Member of the Senate was appointed Chairman of the Transport Commission. What kind

of comfort is this to Canadians since, in 1967-68, this same Minister was responsible for the white elephant called Mirabel in Quebec? Of course, Quebec had to have an airport which could provide the necessary services. That was obvious. However, and the Members opposite know this as well as I do, we now realize the tremendous extent of this expropriation operation. This was all done under the new Chairman of the Transport Commission.

What comfort can this be to Canadians? At his age, what is he going to do in the Transport Commission? I doubt that he will be able to stay in office for long. Whatever anyone may think, Mr. Speaker, this will not restore the confidence of Canadians in a Government which is unable to make better choices. Having an unqualified person replaced by another one is not a solution.

In these circumstances, it is easily understood why we simply refuse to trust this Government when we are asked to get the country deeper into debt and to increase the feeling of despair which exists not only among young people, but in the population at large. This is asking too much, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that we shall have the opportunity to pass judgement on the incompetence which this Government has demonstrated for too long already.

[English]

**Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette):** Mr. Speaker, this is an important Bill. It is important, I would submit, because it asks that we pass borrowing authority that really is a tax on future generations. It is one thing to have a taxation Bill in front of the House for Members to consider so we know precisely what we are asking the people to do, but when you have literally a piece of paper, which is not very substantive in any form, containing basically three clauses, which asks for authority to borrow nearly \$30 billion, it becomes a very serious matter.

An amount of \$30 billion is almost impossible to relate to. One of the ways people can relate to an amount like that is to talk about what a billion dollars means. It means \$40 per capita. In other words, for every person in the nation we are being asked to approve \$1,200 in borrowing. To go on a bit further, if you relate that to an average family of four, if four is an average, each family's share of this Bill, in the form of one piece of paper, is \$4,800.

I want to impress the meaning of this borrowing on Members opposite so that when they vote—and eventually we will get to a vote—they will know exactly what they are doing. This is one borrowing Bill in one year, Mr. Speaker. We know the Government has had many borrowing Bills before this House in the past, but it would be very irresponsible on the part of the Opposition if we blindly went ahead and approved this Bill without question.

Most people when they go to a bank to borrow money have to do it on the basis of some kind of equity, reputation, or some kind of plan of action that will return the money borrowed. But if you look at this Government and its record, its record