

Borrowing Authority Act

Mr. Simmons: It is not the perspective of a real, gut socialist like the hon. gentleman who sits behind him; not the perspective of the pseudo-socialist who sits to his right normally, but the perspective of an intellectual, an armchair socialist, one who has the solutions in his head to all the problems. Don't ever challenge him to put them into practice because he would be lost.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, we seem to be hitting a nerve with the armchair socialists.

An hon. Member: Say something!

Mr. Simmons: He talks about control of the public purse in the best and most serious vein he can muster and he says, with a maturity which belies his years—

Mr. Rae: You should be so lucky!

Mr. Simmons:—that there has been no opportunity to ask a question. Mr. Speaker, he was in committee this morning asking questions. Did anybody stop him there? Is he telling the House that he has been muzzled? If so, let him come forward and raise his complaint in the proper fashion. He is misleading the country when he says there has been no opportunity to inquire into these matters. There have been all kinds of opportunity. Of course, he does not want to admit that because it belies his version of the facts. He talks about allegations that we have done one thing in opposition and another in government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: One thing is certain, at least; when we were in opposition, we could not be accused of the type of flip-flop the NDP has done in opposition. First of all, that party is never going to be in government anyway.

Mr. Anguish: What about the Liberals in western Canada?

Mr. Simmons: In the second place, as we have seen on so many occasions, most notably in connection with the referendum in Quebec, they are capable of taking both sides of an issue depending on what they think is the popular thing to say. They don't need to be in government to change gears. They do it just about twice every day on just about every issue. For instance, their finance critic, when interest rates were high, blamed the government for it. Now, when they are coming down, he gets upset if the government begins to take any credit. He cannot have it both ways. Either he cannot blame the government for the high interest rates or, if he does, he must allow us to take credit when interest rates are lower. Not only did that hon. member criticize the government for high interest rates, when interest rates began coming down very quickly he was on the air, that week, expressing concern that they might come down too fast.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Simmons: That was his concern, then. Yes, he was on both sides of that issue, too. He was against high interest rates

but equally he was against low interest rates and he was pontificating on the CBC about the detrimental effect of low interest rates.

An hon. Member: Rubbish!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is very difficult to hear what is being said.

● (2130)

Mr. Knowles: Tell us about Bill C-30.

Mr. Rae: Tell us what you are going to do with the \$12 billion.

Mr. Simmons: We are going to spend it for the people of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: We are going to use it well for the people. That is what we were elected to do, and we intend to do it well. They are all out tonight; the real socialists and the closet socialists are all out tonight. The hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood, the armchair socialist, says this is no time to increase taxes, and he is right. There is not a Canadian anywhere from coast to coast who disagrees with him on that. This is no time to increase taxes.

Mr. Rae: Talk to the deputy minister of finance.

Mr. Simmons: Even when I agree with the NDP, they do not want to hear it. If they listen, they might just get an angle on this one. Can anybody find one single Canadian who would agree that any time is the time to increase taxes? The hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood thinks he has again latched on to a popular issue when he tells the country tonight that this is no time to increase taxes.

When interest rates were high, the hon. member was telling us to get them down low. He changed his mind afterward, but that is another issue. He always manages to peddle what he considers a popular line.

Mr. Rae: It works in Broadview-Greenwood.

Mr. Simmons: The hon. member says it works in Broadview-Greenwood. He can fool some of the people some of the time, but he will find sooner or later that he does not fool all the people all the time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: That is where the crunch will come for the hon. member. He can sit here and laugh at the people who elected him—

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if there might be unanimous consent in this House that the hon. member who has the floor discontinue his speech and let the previous speaker carry on with the intelligent conversation he had—