

*Borrowing Authority Act*

**Mr. Gustafson:** The socialist theory, brought into being in this country predominantly by the Leader of the Government today, has brought this country to a situation where we have forgotten about production.

I want to take my point one step further. In 1900, 97 per cent of the people were involved in agriculture; today, less than 5 per cent of the people are involved in agriculture. They produce enough food to feed all the people in North America and a good number of people around the world. Production is the word. Our farm boys produce in western Canada and in eastern Canada. In the west they work side by side with the oil boys who are out there pumping oil in temperatures of 40 below. There is some cost to production. The NDP and the Liberal parties have forgotten about that.

**An hon. Member:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Gustafson:** They have forgotten about it completely, seemingly.

**An hon. Member:** What are you talking about?

**Mr. Gustafson:** Production and the fact that we must produce. But what is the story in the oil industry?

**An hon. Member:** Tell us.

**Mr. Gustafson:** A lot of this work has been done by farm boys who worked on these oil wells and produced. The story is this, plain and simple. We in Canada are now furnishing, through production, oil for half price, but we are running far behind because the government has not put a program in place so that we can become self-sufficient in this country and so that, through production, we can have the wherewithal to make this country self-sufficient in energy.

I want to suggest to you that in the next few years, and perhaps next winter, one of the most important words will be energy. I want to suggest that you cannot produce food without energy. Canada is counting on this government. Canada is counting on this House of Commons. Canada is counting on the Liberal government on that side of the House—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gustafson:** —to bring an end to senseless spending. They are counting on you and they are counting on us. It is most important that we bring some responsibility back to the way in which we handle the finances of the taxpayer and the finances the government controls. Here we are asked to approve borrowing authority for \$12 billion. But are we going to be productive?

**An hon. Member:** Yes.

**Mr. Gustafson:** Are we going to have some foresight—

**An hon. Member:** No.

**An hon. Member:** We always have.

**Mr. Gustafson:** —or are we not?

**An hon. Member:** Not from you.

**Mr. Gustafson:** As I said, we have not had an oil agreement. What has the government done?

**An hon. Member:** Alberta is overpaid now.

**Mr. Gustafson:** I want to quote from the *Leader-Post*. The article is entitled, "Messer sees different oil price deal". It reads:

Messer said Lalonde is "somewhat mistaken" to assume co-operation means Saskatchewan would settle for less than Alberta. In fact, Saskatchewan is looking for a better deal than that sought by the other provinces.

"We want a better deal, better in terms of enhancing and encouraging more resource development—

That is the key. It is not simply to get oil as cheaply as possible, with no conservation, and to use it up, with no direction in production. In our budget a year ago in this House we put into place a program which would make Canada self-sufficient in energy—

**An hon. Member:** Nonsense.

**An hon. Member:** You were still on holiday.

**Mr. Gustafson:** —and also a program that would not put this country into debt. It was looked at and commented upon by economists and by experts in many cases as an excellent budget.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Ask Bill Davis; and what about the minister of finance in Ontario?

**Mr. Gustafson:** The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), appealing to the voters in this country, simply did one thing. He offered eastern Canada western Canada's resources at a price he cannot deliver. I want to suggest to you that this type of program will not work. But there is a program that will work; one of being responsible, a program of a fair price for a commodity and a program which looks into the future and to the welfare of this country.

**An hon. Member:** What is a fair price?

**An hon. Member:** Give us a fair price.

**Mr. Gustafson:** I see that my time is nearly up. I would like to say in closing that in terms of the excess spending we have seen in the last 12 years by the Liberal government, as never in the history of this country—

**An hon. Member:** The PCs have never spent, they have never been there.

**Mr. Gustafson:** I challenge you. The people of Canada are counting on this House for responsible direction.

**An hon. Member:** That is what they will get.