

Borrowing Authority

borrowing Bill and a \$30 billion current account debt. With respect to the way the Government is spending the money, and this is the crux of my argument, I fear that a large proportion of that money is being thrown away at sunset industries and sunset economies within our larger national community.

● (1250)

The recession is serious, the problem of sufficient revenue is serious, but what is even more serious—and this is something which the Government is not addressing—is the tremendous high-technology change through which the industrialized world has been going for the past 15 years. The recession has brought this high-tech revolution into focus. Let me give a few examples.

If one compares and contrasts the City of Detroit with the City of Houston, Texas, one will get a very clear idea of just where the hell we are going or not going in this part of the world. Detroit has massive unemployment, decay in the inner core, business failures, old industries drying up and going bankrupt, and Government infusing massive amounts of capital to keep sunset industries, such as the auto industry, going.

If you look at Houston, Texas, you find high technology booming. Houston has not experienced the recession. There are different kinds of city planning, a multitude of institutions teaching high technology and the computer, the microchip industry, is part of the planning process.

Japan saw the writing on the wall in 1975. This may come as a surprise to Members on both sides of this House, but in 1975, through long-term economic planning, which this Government and the Conservatives are opposed to, Japan realized that the auto-making industry was a sunset industry, that the steel-processing industry was a sunset industry and shipbuilding was a sunset industry. They have gradually been disengaging themselves from those three second-wave sunset industries. As we know, they are going to the new "Japans". Auto-making is going to Taiwan and South Korea, shipbuilding is going to Spain and steel processing is going to Brazil.

What are we doing? Because of pressure from our constituents, particularly in industrial ridings, we are throwing hundreds of millions, indeed a couple of billion dollars into make-work and stopgap make-work programs. This is motivated basically from a humane attitude on the part of the Government, but it is a total waste of money.

All we are doing through ILAP, for example, is trying to assist workers whose Unemployment Insurance benefits have run out until they can requalify for benefits which would carry them through another 50 or 52 weeks. On one hand the Government is proposing \$5.2 billion in assistance for research and development. We should be talking of the total amount, or at least \$2 billion, to train and retrain the unemployed and those who will be unemployed as a result of high technology, robotronics, microprocessing, whatever you want to call it, so that they will at least have a chance to find meaningful work when the recession is over.

I am absolutely disgusted at big business and the private sector of this country which refuse to plan ahead. They go

from one quarter to the second quarter to the third quarter and then contrast performance with the first, second and third quarters of the previous year. They are myopic. They do not plan ahead in co-operation with Government or vice versa, as they do in Japan and Sweden, as they are now beginning to do in France and have been doing in West Germany.

There are only three countries left in the industrialized world which refuse to plan; the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. All three are going down the tube. It apparently does not matter what Party is in power. We have the Conservatives raving about Reagonomics and what a great benefit it is, the supply side approach, yet the United States actually is not entering the third-wave sunrise industrialism of the eighties. They will not plan or look ahead. They throw billions of dollars into food stamps and into Unemployment Insurance, as we are, just to maintain sunset industries and sunset jobs.

We need an incomes policy in this country to do away with Unemployment Insurance and welfare and all the bloody red tape that goes with it. We need a decent, basic minimum income for everyone, and then a full-fledged, widespread high-tech training program for those who are capable of taking advantage of it.

If we are going to be stuck with 10 per cent unemployable people in this country, as I fear we are, we have to accept that in a humane and open way and learn to live with it. However, for the other 90 per cent who have a chance of getting employment, we must make every effort to spend money. If we have to borrow it, let us put it up front in a positive, creative way, not throw it into dying industries and jobs. That is really the nub of the problem.

My time is almost up. I impress upon the Government, for heaven's sake think ahead; think in terms of modern high technology. Think in terms of what Alvin Toffler calls "The Third Wave", what John Naisbitt in his book "Megatrends" calls the informational society. Those who have the information are the people who will have the jobs. Those who can run the computers and the robots will also have the jobs. The remainder, I am afraid, will be in dire straits unless the Government and the private sector get together with their act.

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise shortly before the luncheon break to take part in the debate on Bill C-143. Many Canadians do not understand and certainly those on this side have a great deal of difficulty understanding why a Government would have to borrow \$19 billion when the end of the fiscal year is fast approaching. It needs an additional \$5 billion to get through this year, and \$14 billion to carry us through until the summer, maybe July.

My colleagues in this Party have mentioned the total disregard which this Government has had and is continuing to have for accountability to the public of Canada. We have a request for \$19 billion without any back-up, numbers, explanation, or plan which tells the people of Canada that we are going to do better. The Government has become so callous, so