

out that these are tailored specifically for a variety of capital projects for the 1988 Olympics. If the sales go particularly well I suggest that we could see some extension beyond that traditional figure associated with the support of amateur sports in Canada.

On behalf of my Party, I wish the Minister well in his endeavour to ensure that adequate funds flow to Canadian support for our Olympics in 1988.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Order made earlier this day, Bill C-21, an Act to amend the Currency Act, is now deemed to have been read a second time, considered in Committee of the Whole, reported without amendment, concurred in at the report stage and read the third time and passed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, considered in Committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

* * *

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1984-85 (No. 2)

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Thursday, December 6, consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-11, an Act to provide borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Alt-house (p. 948).

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we asked for this debate for a very simple reason. Canadians are confused, upset and frightened by the conflicting statements on the future of our social programs coming from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his senior Ministers.

[*Translation*]

The purpose of this debate is to determine, once and for all, what the Government intends to do about family allowance, old age security pensions and other social programs that for many decades have provided security for Canadian men and women.

[*English*]

And we are not the only ones who want straight answers. As we saw in the House yesterday, Conservative back-benchers are asking their Minister where the Government stands on this issue.

These are basic, fundamental and essential programs. Every parent who has raised a child knows the difference that the baby bonus makes in helping defray part of the ever-increasing cost of their children's clothing, education, shoes and food. Everyone 65 years and over knows how important the old age pension cheque is to help put a roof over one's head and to put food on the table, at this time of the year maybe even to pick up a few presents for the grandchildren.

Those approaching retirement age have a legitimate interest in knowing whether they will receive their legitimate pension

Borrowing Authority

for which they have paid tax and for which they have contributed throughout a lifetime of work in this country. Anybody who has ever been sick knows how important it is to have a universally accessible medical system. If you have been on your back in hospital for a day or a few weeks, Mr. Speaker, the last thing you need is the added burden of worry and anguish about doctor and hospital bills which can run into the thousands of dollars.

The philosophy behind these programs has been a Liberal philosophy. Every one of these programs has been brought in by Liberal Governments, defended and expanded by Liberals and protected by the Liberal Party.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the struggle to protect the universality of social programs is continuing today and is being carried on by the Liberals. I can assure you that we in the Liberal caucus and the Liberal Party will continue this struggle with all the determination and energy we can muster.

[*English*]

The Party that we had to fight against to bring in some of these programs is the same Party we are fighting today to maintain these programs. The Prime Minister, his Party and his Ministers have been all over the map. In 1976 when he was a candidate for the leadership of his Party, the Prime Minister said that abolishing the principle of universality in social legislation would eliminate a great deal of waste and bureaucracy. He advocated a five-year freeze on increases in social spending when he ran for the leadership again in 1983. He said again that he wanted to review Old Age Security benefits.

In the book which he published entitled *Where I Stand* he said on page 19 that "Doing away with indexed pensions and benefits would produce a desirable result".

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) and former Minister of Finance of this country said when he was finance critic in opposition that he wanted to review social programs and that eliminating universal programs such as baby bonuses and old age pensions would help reduce the deficit. In March of this year the Prime Minister said that he had no hesitation in reviewing the concept of universality.

Then came the election. The old record came off and was replaced with a new disc. It went right to the top of the charts. For the purposes of the election, suddenly universal social programs became for the Conservative Party, in those famous words, "a sacred trust not to be tampered with". But that was just for the campaign. The Minister of Finance's mini-budget that was brought in just three days after this Parliament assembled raises questions and alternatives to universal social programs. It does not say that those programs will not be touched. It does not say that they will not be tampered with. There is no mention of a sacred trust in that document.

On December 13 the Minister of Finance was quoted as saying that "upper and middle income social programs cannot be afforded today". Those were his words. This is a clear admission that the sacred trust of the Prime Minister and his Party was just a temporary commitment. It is a clear admis-