

*Borrowing Authority Act*

he mentions sacred trusts. Then he steps on the people of the country in a most objectionable way and destroys their hopes. It is more than blarney when the Prime Minister says that we will double expenditures on research and development and then fails to do any such thing. In fact he has cut back on the rate of expenditures for such research and development. That is more than blarney; it is an untruth.

No, the Government is not characterized by blarney. It is characterized by an utter failure to live up to its promises. More important, it is characterized by its failure to live up to the needs of the country in terms of its Budgets and policies. I see Hon. Members opposite smiling in good humour. They recognize the truth.

I was reflecting on the speech given by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), in which he cited the many instances in which Members opposite took positions on both sides of the question when they were in opposition. Of course, that indicates the perfidy of members of the Tory Party. I began to think about that and I realized that it is not necessarily so. It might be an immoral approach to politics, but it might also represent the fact that whatever the government policy may be now there may well exist within the Party opposite sufficient diversity of opinion and sufficient opposition to stupidity that they may be listening to what we have to say. Perhaps Members opposite would like to hear a case presented in such a fashion as to encourage them to combat some of the errors being made by the Government.

I have only a few minutes in which to pursue this discourse. I suppose it should be pointed out that it is my tendency when asked to speak in such circumstances to relate my remarks to the four major issues which constitute my critic area. They are youth, post-secondary education, science and technology and human rights external. As I have indicated before there is within these areas a relationship in terms of the policies generated with respect to them and to the future of the country. It bears emphasis that in recent weeks there has been an emphasis on the concerns of youth through unfortunate circumstances. I have to say that I find that what the Government is not doing as opposed to what it is saying is deeply offensive.

I can understand that the Secretary of State (Mr. Bouchard), the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne) and the Prime Minister may see within the demonstration by the good Senator some type of offence to the parliamentary process. That is understandable. However, what we have heard is something more than that. We have heard the Secretary of State utter remarks which are only consistent with the notion that the Government will refuse to act in response to the strongly articulated needs of youth simply because there is a Senator in the lobby of the Senate engaged in a hunger strike. We can say, as we have said before, that there is something sick loose in the world when 700,000 young people are unemployed. Many of them are the prostitutes off our streets. Many of them are without food and meet in the missions of this country. Many are driven to crime. Many are alienated to the point of never being able to return to society. There is a need

that cries out with a tearful voice and a relentless voice. That all of that would fail to get a response would certainly indicate that the Government, under no circumstances, will respond to what could potentially be the death of one man who is demonstrating concern. Why would the Government refuse to act in a responsible fashion simply because this dramatic demonstration is occurring?

● (1710)

We have heard the Prime Minister rise in the House to promise that there would be some action taken with respect to the development of youth programs in addition to the many things he claims to have already done. We heard the Minister of State for Youth say that she had read the New Democratic task force report and the Senate committee report and is working on a program that will be implemented pretty soon. Then we heard the Secretary of State say last Friday: "Oh, God, I don't know anything about it. As far as I know, we are not going to have any programs for youth".

The perfidy, the prevarication and the misleading exercise this Government is taking, along with its failure to respond represents a poor model for anyone but, most of all, a poor model for our youth. The Budget constitutes a traitorous response to the needs of so many young Canadians, and that should change and change fast.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Debate. The Hon. Member for Jonquière (Mr. Blackburn).

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière):** Mr. Speaker, I had not planned on speaking in this debate on Bill C-99 asking for a borrowing authority of \$22.6 billion, but I cannot remain silent when I hear the comments made by the Members of the Opposition. Indeed, I find it very unfortunate that some Members opposite would attempt to project such a negative and irresponsible image to the population even though our Budget shows a lot of imagination and coherence in view of the financial situation which we inherited, as well as sensitivity to the problems of the most needy among us.

It would be very easy to do like the previous Government and increase our expenditures. We could also increase the size of the Public Service and the number of Crown corporations. We could reduce taxes and increase family allowances and old age security pensions. In the short term, this would certainly please Canadians, but we would be on our way to a financial deadend.

Instead, our Government has opted for a reduction of its expenditures and asked Canadians to make another effort to put our economy back on its feet as soon as possible. Mr. Speaker, this is truly a responsible Government.

We are keeping to the two objectives which we set ourselves as a Government and as good administrators. The first is to fight against the deficit, as we are continuing to do, and the second is to encourage business investments as its direct result