

Borrowing Authority

There were also indirect costs associated with the Senate delay. Although these costs are difficult to measure, it is clear that any interruption in the Government's borrowing program will introduce some confusion and uncertainty into financial markets, if only because the federal government's position in the market forces all other participants to plan around the federal borrowing schedule.

Those Ministers were blaming the Senate for every ill that befell them. Now, when there is a \$3 billion or \$4 billion cost to Canadians arising out of their failure to recall the House on time, we do not hear a peep.

Why are the Ministers not apologizing to the Canadian people for wasting \$4 million of their money that will be taxed out of their hides by the Government in its new tax measures? Why is there not some apology for this fumbling and bumbling?

Why was the Minister of Finance not out at the gates of Rideau Hall when the Prime Minister went to advise Her Excellency to prorogue the last session and postpone the date for recalling Parliament? He should have been there with signs and placards objecting to this procedure. Instead, we do not hear a peep about it. It has been all hushed up. Nothing has been said in the House about it because the Government is ashamed of its record. It is a disgraceful record.

If the Minister of Finance had any common sense or any sense of caring for the people of Canada he was elected to serve, he would resign at once and admit that the Government has fumbled and bumbled every financial measure it has brought before Parliament. It is a shocking disgrace and we should hear some apologies from the other side.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, I am happy to participate in the debate this afternoon on Bill C-11. Before I get into the substance of my remarks, I wanted to put on the record the fact that I sat here and listened to the Hon. Member for South West Nova (Mrs. Campbell), who has since vacated her seat, and could not help but reflect back over the years of one Liberal Government after another when they made every attempt possible, not only to gut VIA Rail and bring it to an absolute standstill, something they are now accusing this Government of attempting to do, quite accurately, but also in the Hon. Member's own bailiwick of the country in Atlantic Canada, tried three times to shut down Base Summerside. The Hon. Member and her cohorts in the Liberal Party had the unmitigated gall to

stand up today and condemn this Government when they attempted to do the very same thing themselves.

It is that type of duplicity that brings a certain degree of dishonour to this Chamber. One thing we must all at least attempt to do is to bring some intellectual honesty back into this very important forum.

This afternoon I would like to discuss some of the aspects, not only of the borrowing Bill itself, but how in my view the Government is very unwisely not borrowing money in order to spend money on what I consider to be worthwhile projects. I want to touch on the rising costs and the emergency that is developing in municipal infrastructure, and the decay within our cities in terms of water services, sewage disposal, waste treatment plants and indeed the very sidewalks on which we walk and the roads on which we drive.

I also want to talk about something else that relates to ordinary Canadians, and that is older workers' retraining programs which a couple of the provinces has still yet to agree to, and also cuts in VIA Rail and base closures, if I have time.

Our cities and towns are being left to decay by the federal Government's refusal to join with municipal and provincial governments to deal with the problem. This is a growing and critical problem across our country. We see it in the United States in the inner core of its cities, on its interstate highways and bridges which are literally rotting because of the lack of funds at the local and state levels. We are now seeing that here in Canada and indeed we have seen it for several years.

For example, 138 of Ontario's 371 sewage treatment plants do not meet provincial and environmental standards. That applies today in 1989. Only 10 per cent of raw sewage east of Ontario is treated at all.

These days the Government is heralding this tremendous breakthrough in an agreement with the United States on getting control of acid rain emissions. There are arguments for and against the specific details as they were revealed in Washington a day or so ago. There is no question that that is a very important environmental concern.

Right here in our own cities, in that part of Canada that is east of Ontario, only 10 per cent of raw sewage is being treated and the rest of it is being dumped into our waterways and into our lakes. This is an absolute disgrace. This problem was neglected for years by former Liberal governments and it has been neglected by the