

Borrowing Authority

direction, just building on the resources, strength and riches which we have all come to appreciate. In these times that is no longer good enough.

I want to comment on a couple of sectors of our economy which, by and large, have been overlooked in the last number of weeks. I listened with interest when the budget was brought down, when many business groups said they were very pleased with it. It was said that this was a probusiness budget which would assist the business community of Canada. I listened as Members of the Government rose in their seats here and in other forums and indicated that this budget would assist business across our country.

What has become clear, now that the smoke has cleared from the budget, is that the Government included very little to assist small-sized and medium-sized businesses in this country. I will admit that there are certainly some features in the past budget which successful corporations, those doing exceptionally well these days, those with positive profit and loss statements, find to be very attractive. However, for a typical medium-sized or small-sized business operating in Canada today, which is struggling to survive, simply to maintain the status quo, the budget contains virtually nothing which will be of assistance.

I believe that the business community of Canada today is just waking up to the fact that it has been used as a fall guy. Those in the business community were called upon to support a budget to create a positive response across the country, and they did that. They now realize that they were conned and used, and that in fact the small entrepreneurs, the small businesses and the medium-sized businesses in Canada are no better off today as a result of the budget than they were earlier.

That is a sad comment, because if there was one fact that the House of Commons recognized over the last number of months, it was that the answer to our problems in Canada will not be provided by the large corporations because if their massive bureaucracy and their inability to move quickly to take advantage of these changing economic times.

What has become clear over the last number of months is that our economy is in a state of transition. Our economy fell down over the last two and one half years, but as it begins to rebound in different places a new economy of Canada is emerging. The firms which will be able to take advantage of the new and changing world are not the large, traditional corporations but, rather, the small-sized and medium-sized businesses. They are the organizations which are able to move quickly. They are able to dodge and twist and take advantage of the new technologies and new marketing programs. They are able to take advantage of new sources of capital and are able to risk moving very quickly into new areas in response to the changing economy of our country.

This is the group of firms which will be providing the jobs for Canadians in the future. These are the firms which will be providing the real research and development that we need. These are the firms which will be developing the locally based economies which are sensitive not only to the regions of Canada but also to the neighbourhoods of Canada. It is the

small business community which is now best able to reflect the aspirations of Canadians as they become localized into their own communities and their own subregions of Canada. The budget contains nothing for those particular firms. It contains nothing for the individual who wishes to launch a small business to take advantage of a local resource or to cater to a local market.

One must wonder what it is that Hon. Members of the Government are using for their policy making. What sources of information are they using for their policies, for their programs, for the positions which they take within the budget framework? There has been no suggestion in anything I have read nor from any group to which I have spoken that the route to go is to cater to the large corporations and, by and large, ignore the small business sector. It has been quite the contrary. The dynamic business community of Canada in the future will be the small-sized and medium-sized businesses. Yet those are the sectors which have been overlooked in the budget.

In considering Bill C-151, asking authority for \$14.7 billion of further borrowing, the other question which comes to mind is: What will the extra \$4 billion be used for? What becomes very clear is that we are moving into a pre-election time. It is to the Government's advantage to have a contingency fund, a slush fund which can be drawn upon for buying votes from the Canadian Public. I hate even to suggest that that is something which the Government may be contemplating; but again, until we hear the Government clearly explain why it has requested an extra \$4 billion slush fund, I think we on this side of the House must assume the worst. We must assume that the Government will be using \$4 billion of taxpayers' money to buy votes in selected constituencies across the country.

Certain constituencies may wish sports or riding arenas, swimming pools, youth centres, halfway houses, ports, docks, marinas and the like. There will be funds for the Government to use in an effort to buy favours in those particular constituencies, either to shore up existing Liberal Members or in the hope of pulling the Liberal vote from existing Conservative or New Democratic Party constituencies.

I would ask Members of the Liberal Party, as they rise to debate the borrowing authority, to explain why it is the Government must borrow an extra \$4 billion beyond its fiscal requirements. Explain that request to the people of Canada who are having a difficult time simply meeting their basic needs today. The people of Canada are surely not going out and borrowing extra money for contingency funds. They will be quite satisfied simply to borrow what they possibly can, considering the way the banks have been responding in the last number of months.

I want to propose two elements in the borrowing authority debate which have come to my attention over the last number of months and which I think should be placed on the record. They involve a certain kind of behaviour on the part of Canadian chartered banks which I think we ought to examine carefully. I want to qualify my remarks by first saying that I do not believe these are banking policies. I suspect that if