

*Borrowing Authority*

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Sparrow:** The major reason for Canada's poor performance was the failure of the previous Government to deal with the real problems. For too long that Government ignored the causes of the problems and dealt only with the symptoms. For too long it allowed the fiscal situation to deteriorate and the debt to increase.

Through excessive regulation and intervention, the previous Government substituted the judgments of politicians and regulators for the judgment of those in the market-place—the people of Canada. This Government believes that Canadians have the desire to produce and to innovate, and that Canadians have the capability to generate much stronger growth than that which we have seen in the past decade.

Our objective is to put in place a policy framework which will release the creative energies of Canadians in order that they can build a better future for themselves. It will give young people a chance to make a productive contribution, and it will open new opportunities for older workers.

Canada is the only major country without unimpeded access to a market which is large enough to permit substantial economies of scale. If we are to foster growth through trade, we must obtain more secure and improved access to foreign markets on the broadest possible basis.

Canada is a major trading nation. We must look beyond the United States to the market-places in the Pacific Rim. Canadians have an imperfect understanding of the full meaning and implications of the emergence of Japan as an economic superpower, and as the centre of emerging developments in the Pacific Rim. We must direct our energies toward this area. We must realize that the world is changing in trade, technology and economic institutions. Investment Canada will provide a two-way street. We must view Japanese investment—in fact, all foreign investment—as a positive force in the economic development in Canada. We must have stable economic growth.

Both the deficit and unemployment will decline substantially if the Canadian economy grows at a reasonable pace. This Government will create a climate of stability and it will regain the confidence of Canadians. We can attract investment in Canada, and we can turn our great country around to achieve increased productivity and, therefore, create more jobs for Canadians.

There is much that we in Canada can do to improve our economic performance. We must put our fiscal house in order so that we can limit and ultimately reverse the massive build-up of public debt. The Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), on November 8—with his deferrals, cuts and transfers—saved \$4.5 billion and applied \$2.2 billion against the deficit. We must adopt policies which foster higher investment, greater innovation and increased international competitiveness. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) brought forward Investment Canada. Because of that, we can look forward to more equity being invested in Canada.

The Members of the Conservative Cabinet have travelled and will continue to travel across Canada. They are speaking with their provincial counterparts, industries, labour and the people of Canada. This Government consults first and acts second.

In closing, I would reiterate that this is a Government of the people, for the people, and it will listen to the people.

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to join in the debate this afternoon. It is a somewhat unique debate, as far as I have been concerned since I have been in the House.

The House is speaking to Bill C-11, which is a Bill to provide borrowing authority for the Government. It is a Bill which has been before the House for three or four weeks. It has gone through one amendment after another. Those amendments were moved by the Opposition. However, apparently we will achieve some progress today, because of the unique aspect of the debate and the fact that we are also debating the principle of universality and social policy. I would like to speak briefly on both issues. As well, I would like to speak on the authority of the Government to borrow money in order to pay for the deficit.

As far as the question of universality in social programming is concerned, I was delighted this afternoon to hear the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) outline very clearly and firmly the policy and views of this Government. I believe his remarks clarified once and for all the present position of the Government and the position which our Government has always taken. In his speech, the Minister touched upon two points in which I believe very firmly. The Minister indicated that they are cornerstones of his beliefs and of government policy. The first is universality, the second is that there will not be a means test. I would like to endorse whole-heartedly the statements which were made by the Minister, and I congratulate him on those statements.

The Minister also dealt with the whole question of examining social programs, to see if more can be produced out of the same types of programs with the same revenue. I believe that is what we will be focusing our debate on in the coming year. We are going to have an opportunity, once the discussion papers have been issued by the Government, to take an in-depth look at those various programs, and to see what we can do to improve the lot of the Canadian people.

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I know that Hon. Members of the Opposition who are here today, and those who are not, truly believe in trying to help the disadvantaged and low-income people of this country. I know that they are seriously going to join us in this debate in order to attempt to improve the system for all Canadians. Most of the opposition speakers have been telling us that the whole system was introduced by their Party, so I would hope that they would join with us in improving the system which is in place.