

hon. member. I will also send to her the figures on the number of handicapped our department hires. I think it was a very good question and I welcome it.

● (1720)

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Flis) spoke at length about transportation. It would be fine if the money we were borrowing today was not money to pay the grocery bill, but it is. It would be fine if it were not money to pay interest for debts previously borrowed, but it is. It would be fine if the money we were borrowing today was not money to pay for the VIA Rail deficits or money to pay for the Mirabel deficits. But it is.

The hon. member talked about money for advertising. Imagine borrowing money for advertising. If we were borrowing money to turn the economy around then maybe there would be something in favour of it. If this bill were tagged for the purpose of borrowing money for worthwhile capital improvements for the productivity of Canada, then probably all of us could get together and praise the government for doing that type of thing. But that is not the case.

Mr. Riis: Unfortunately.

Mr. Blenkarn: It is very unfortunate. This bill is only the first of its kind this year but the third in this session of Parliament. When this House was called together after the February, 1980, election, we were presented with a borrowing authority bill for \$12 billion. Within less than a year we were presented with another bill for \$14 billion. We have before us this bill for \$6.6 billion. We now have over \$32.6 billion in borrowing authority for this session. Yet we are told by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) that this will only be a downpayment on what he needs, that he will have to come again before this House with another borrowing authority bill before this calendar year is over and ask for more. We have asked him how much more. He does not know.

Mr. Wilson: Or he will not tell.

Mr. Blenkarn: What are the Minister of Finance's income anticipations now that his budget is over six months old? He does not know. Where is the Minister of Finance going on corporate tax collection? He does not know. Where is he going on personal income tax collection? He does not know. Where is the Minister of Finance going on sales tax collection? He does not know or he will not disclose it. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, as a former leader of this party, the late Right Hon. John G. Diefenbaker often said in this House of Commons when he challenged the other side, where are we going?

Before we ask that question, we must determine where we are and how we got here. We are now in the worst depression this country has had since the 1930s. Indeed, if you were to do a comparative history performance of the financial concerns of this country, you might compare the period we are in right now with late 1931 or perhaps January, 1932. We have had a bank inquiry. Members of the committee asked senior banking

officials and senior economists whether Canada has yet reached the bottom and whether Canada has gone down as far as it can go. The answer given to both questions is no. The officials were asked when we will have a turnaround. They told us that they do not know.

We have a government that blames the world for our troubles. It blames the Americans. The Americans are terrible people, we are told. They lower their income tax. The Americans are terrible people. That is what we hear. On a per capita basis the Americans borrow half as much money as we do. Therefore, the Americans are at fault for our high interest rates.

Maybe it is the Japanese who are at fault. They do not trade fairly with us. The Japanese sell us products and do nothing about keeping our jobs and keeping our people employed in Canada. The blame for our troubles is always placed on someone else. Until this year the provinces were the ones at fault. It was the terrible people from Alberta. Now it is the terrible fellow who runs the province of Newfoundland. It is always someone else. What we have is confrontation. Someone else is responsible for Canada, not the government in this House. That is the answer we are given. It is not an answer.

This government fails to recognize the potential of this country. It fails to recognize that we have more people who are literate on a per capita basis than any other country in the world. We have more mineral resources, more oil and gas resources, more fresh water resources. We have more of almost everything than any country in the world.

Canada is closest to the largest market in the world. Give any other country in the world the opportunity to be where Canada sits, with the resources Canada has, with the potential Canada has, and would it have a government that begs and cries for \$6.6 billion and at the same time says it is not enough? Of course not. We have a government that is so worried about foreigners and foreign investment that it does everything in its power to throw out investors.

Mr. Riis: Not FIRA again!

Mr. Blenkarn: My friend says "Not FIRA again". I want to say to the hon. member that we are a capital-short country. We need all the capital we can get. We need savings.

Mr. Riis: We have savings.

Mr. Blenkarn: The hon. member says we have savings. Well, I want to tell the hon. member right now that while Canadians save more per capita than Americans, Canadians save only half as much per capita as the British and only one third as much per capita as the Japanese.

Mr. Evans: That is not true.

Mr. Blenkarn: We do not save nearly enough. We need as much capital in our country as we can get. If we have to get it from the far corners of the world, so be it. But let us have it so that we can develop our nation and put our people to work. Any policy and any government that deliberately discourages