

*Borrowing Authority Act*

Rideau Hall  
Ottawa

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Antonio Lamer, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 28th day of March, 1984, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière  
Administrative Secretary to the  
Governor General

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1984-85

#### MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed from Tuesday, March 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacLaren that Bill C-21, an Act to provide borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; and the amendment of Mr. Darling (p. 2292); and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Deans (p. 2299).

**Mr. Douglas Fisher (Mississauga North):** Mr. Speaker, it is a difficult time to begin a debate on this particular subject matter, particularly after the time allocation motion we have just had. However, perhaps that is why I was asked to begin the debate at this stage, because as a former Parliamentary Secretary I must say that I have had a lot of experience with time allocation on government borrowings.

We have followed the same pattern with all of these borrowing Bills. The Opposition speaks for as long as it can, it raises what I believe are many serious points in its debates, and eventually the Government decides that it must govern and introduce time allocation. While it is not an easy circumstance, I believe it is necessary.

I know the concerns that are raised by the Opposition Parties and I respect them. I have seen the Tories argue consistently in the House that a dollar that is borrowed could be reduced to 50 cents. There is nothing the matter with that argument. I think it keeps the Government on its toes.

Equally, the Tories argue that borrowing Bills should be relatively small and that the Government should come back to Parliament to justify itself on a regular basis. Again, I think that is a respectable argument and is one that I commend. On the other hand, all of this needs to be kept in balance. We need an efficient Parliament and an efficient, smooth borrowing process with the Government.

Although we have heard some very good and, I must say, traditional arguments surrounding time allocation, in this particular case I believe it is time we got on with the job. I believe there is enough in front of Parliament that we should get on to some of the other legislation.

Any debate on borrowing authority is a debate about government support for the economy and specific people within the economy. It is a debate today about how much support should be given, how much money the Government should borrow and spend to support the economy. The current debate focuses on whether we are causing any damage to the economy as a consequence of our borrowing. I do not believe we are. I believe we have stimulated our economy and the recovery through our borrowing and spending. We are helping those who need help. We are in a very good position in our international circumstances.

It is interesting to watch the Conservatives in this same debate. Let me remind the House that only a few weeks ago the former Conservative Finance Minister said that future Tory policy would be mean, tough and nasty-minded. The Member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson), who hopes to be a prominent Tory economic spokesman in the future, says that he would cut right across the board in every department, despite demonstrated needs or despite demonstrated service.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Fisher:** Equally, in *The Globe and Mail* on the weekend, we saw an article that reinforced our view that the Tory Party will attack universal social programs.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Fisher:** There was a quote in *The Globe and Mail* that said that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) wanted to study and remove the universality in our social programs even if that meant that we would have to have means tests.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Fisher:** These are not claims that I am making; these are claims that one can read in *The Globe and Mail* and in *The Toronto Star*.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. There is so much noise surrounding the Hon. Member that I cannot hear him from the Chair even with my speaker turned on full blast.

**Mr. Fisher:** Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues feel passionately about the Government's support for the economy and they feel passionately that the Conservative Party should not be allowed to do these things. Therefore I understand the spontaneous demonstrations that we are hearing among these high-minded people.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to look at the way the Canadian Government is supporting the economy. You will note, for example, the very clear parallel between our commitment to Canada and de Havilland, on the one hand, and the historic Tory move to destroy the Avro Arrow 25 years ago. If we