

Borrowing Authority Act

tired of handing out more money to a government which cannot manage its affairs.

The amendment by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) to bring at least some semblance of responsibility to the government is highly desirable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part very briefly in this debate to emphasize the good use the government generally makes of the funds voted by the House. I heard this evening several remarks by hon. members, mostly from Alberta, a province which is fairly rich compared to other provinces more to the east. We in the east are very sensitive to the good use the government makes of public funds. With all the social policies we have had in the country for a few years, we can see to what extent the government takes seriously its role of redistributing as fairly as possible all the wealth of this country. If some hon. members from the west find it difficult to agree to share or to have a fair redistribution of the wealth of this country, I find it is shameful and unacceptable. It is still more unacceptable to use the debate on the bill before us to blame the government for its sense of justice and fairness. As far as I am concerned, I represent an area where industry is being really diversified thanks to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

It will be remembered that in 1969 that department was created specifically to fight against regional disparities. That is the very best example one can give of the fair use the Canadian government made of funds. Thanks to the money Bill C-7 will authorize us to borrow, the government will be able to pursue the many projects and programs already in progress. For instance, it will enable industries in ridings like mine to get subsidies for job creation.

Since 1969, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has spent \$12 million in the riding of Drummond. It has created hundreds of jobs. In an area like mine, where textiles represented 40 per cent to 45 per cent of the industrial sector ten years ago, it now stands at only 8 per cent of the active population in the whole riding. That change we owe in major part to the policy of the Canadian government with regard to regional economic expansion, a policy of diversification of industries in the larger centres where, unfortunately too often, the economy was dependent on a single sector which in this instance was weak.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear some hon. members from the have provinces complain about the use this government has made of its funds, I can only answer by giving them that example which speaks loudly of the sense of responsibilities, of equity and fair distribution of our wealth across the nation, which this government has. There are also the numerous other programs financed by the Canadian government all of which are in the

[Mr. Epp.]

common interest. We always act in that spirit of Canadian solidarity. Today I heard the member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre)—unfortunately, he left the House—blaming us for nationalizing a private oil company through Petro-Canada. I say that it was a wrongful not to say a misleading way to put it. May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, before beginning the adjournment debate, I wonder if I might put a question to the Parliamentary secretary to the President of Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), concerning the House business tomorrow.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): That can be done with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In view of the fact that time is of the essence respecting Bill C-5, because certain spouses become widows day by day and lose their benefits until the bill is passed, would the government canvass the possibility of Bill C-5 being given priority over Bill C-7, particularly if it is possible to pass it quickly?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to consider all possibilities, but we will probably proceed with consideration of Bill C-7, then study Bill C-5 and finally come to Bill C-10.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION—FUNDING OF LAND REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pursue the matter which I raised on October 18 with the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Lessard) was not in the House. It concerns one of the more unbelievable decisions made by the government in the name of reducing federal expenditures. It has to do with the termination at the halfway point of support for the land registration and information service, a program and agency which the federal government helped to create in 1972-73.