

*Government Orders*

In effect we are a Third World economy with a First World standard of living. But for how much longer can we continue in that vein? For how much longer can the economy of Canada sustain the kind of lifestyle to which Canadians have become accustomed or to which they would like to become accustomed? We need only go to some of the less advantaged areas of Canada.

I cited some examples from Atlantic Canada. I think they underscore the disparities we have nation-wide.

• (1840)

The government comes to us today and says: "We want another \$24.7 billion". We would be happy to give it that money if we had along with that request an indication of an agenda or an objective the government and this country could follow for the purposes of growth.

My colleagues as well have alluded to the problems that we have in terms of unity. How can we speak of national unity when we appear to be bereft of national purpose? How can we speak about harmony and productivity when the government has essentially abandoned its obligation to address economic disparity on a regional basis, economic disparity on a personal basis, and when its only solution to all ills of this nation is to increase taxation and decrease expenditures.

A study was recently put out about the problems of Canada with respect to its demography, its population, and why it cannot be competitive. It does not mean that Canadians are incapable of producing an intellectual level of inhabitant capable of competing with others world-wide. That is not the problem. In fact once Canadians get to the university stage, the post-graduate degree level and beyond, they can compete with others of similar education world-wide.

The technology of today and the technology of tomorrow require a semi-skilled or skilled worker able to make adjustments from day to day, year to year, and for that they require a high level of education.

Even this government through its ministers has indicated that by the end of this century we will need a minimum of five years of post-secondary school educa-

tion and/or training for the typical job, for 55 per cent of all jobs that will be created by year 2000.

Through this bill we do not even have an indication of whether the government will in fact put in some adjustment policies, some transitional policies that will help those who are already in the marketplace or in the work field to move over. Nor does it have an indication that it is willing to contribute to the education of tomorrow's citizens, today's young people.

For those reasons we cannot support this bill.

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have a chance to speak on Bill C-61. This is the borrowing bill; not boring but borrowing. The government has asked permission to borrow \$24.7 billion. Of course it has already told us in the budget how it is going to spend it.

The government has told us it is going to be trying to hold down the national debt by cutting back on payments to provinces, by cutting back on all kinds of services to people, and by cutting back on basic things like health, education and the legal services that people need to defend themselves in the courts against questionable legislation.

The government's argument is that it has to cut back because there is a big national debt and a deficit every year and we are paying all this money on the debt. What it does not tell us is that year by year it has been allowing the richest individuals in the country and the richest, biggest corporations in the country to get away with little or no tax. If these corporations and individuals paid tax even at the rate they did say 20 years ago, we would have more money in the government's coffers to spend than we are spending now and no debt.

It is a con game that the government is playing, to say it has to borrow more money and at the same time it has to cut back on the services that the big majority of the Canadian people need to use like education and health.

I have just a few examples of corporations that make plenty of money but pay no tax. Leading off, there is privatized Air Canada. In 1989 it made \$231 million and paid no tax. There is Bramalea, one of the real estate development companies in the metro Toronto area.