

*Borrowing Authority*

fair play, I believe that if the present policy were followed Members of the New Democratic Party or backbenchers of the Government would never have an opportunity to ask questions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member is reflecting on the Chair. The Hon. Member should know better than to do that. With all due respect, the proportions that are normally respected are three questions for the Official Opposition to one question for the Hon. Member's Party. Had there been a fourth Member recognized, the Hon. Member's Party would have been recognized. Every opportunity is offered to Members on the Government side. In a previous exchange the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fisher), the only Member who rose on that side who caught the eye of the Chair, was recognized. The Chair appeals to Hon. Members to recognize the difficult position of the Chair and the attempt to be impartial.

**Mr. Keeper:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** If the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper) has a legitimate point of order, he will be heard. The Chair appeals to Hon. Members not to raise false points of order.

**Mr. Keeper:** To put my point of order very briefly, Mr. Speaker, without reflecting on the Chair whatever, could we seek unanimous consent of the House to allow one question by this Party?

• (1450)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** At this stage, the Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

**Mr. Harquail:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I just want to clarify the matter of the exchange. Perhaps you could help us.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the Hon. Member raising a point of order or entering into debate?

**Mr. Harquail:** I want to make it clear. My point of order is no reflection on the Chair. That is my first point.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member has reflected on the Chair. The Chair now recognizes the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, now that I have the floor, and it being Friday afternoon, I hope that at the end of my speech all Members can be treated alike and perhaps we should have no questions.

I am pleased to speak on this Bill. In my remarks I wish to deal a little with the recession that was mentioned by the previous speaker. I want to say something about the amendment moved by the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) on behalf of the New Democratic Party. I would also like to talk about Government spending priorities and its economic policy, or lack of it. As well, I want to say something about Government waste and the jobs it gives to its boys like the Pitfields and the Gillespies. I will also deal with the job-

creation program and, if time permits, I will point out the contradiction of the Conservative alternative. Finally, I would like to make some suggestions about what should be done in both the long and short term in order to get the Canadian economy back on track. Time permitting, I will deal with some of the remarks made by the Bishops which I consider important and thoughtful.

We have before us another borrowing authority Bill. I have not had a chance to talk about 16 borrowing authority bills as the Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. McRae) said he has. I think this one is enough. It is the fourth Bill of its kind in eight months. Other borrowing authority Bills were introduced in June, 1982 for \$6.6 billion, in July, 1982 for \$7 billion and in November, 1982 for \$4 billion. This Bill is asking for \$19 billion, \$5 billion of which is to be used to get through the fiscal year. The remaining \$14 billion is to be used as interim funds for the period ending October, 1983.

In effect, the Government is asking for this money without producing a financial statement. That is tantamount to writing the Government a blank cheque. That is hardly a policy that our Party could endorse.

While this amount is relatively high when compared to other borrowing requests, it is not unprecedented. However, the manner in which the Government is proceeding with this Bill is noteworthy. Thomas Walkom wrote in *The Globe and Mail*:

While it is not unheard of for a Government to ask for some interim borrowing authority, a \$14 billion request without a budget is unprecedented.

This is why our Party has proposed an amendment to this Bill. The amendment asks that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs for further study before we give the Government a blank cheque. I believe that is the only reasonable and proper thing to do. I urge Hon. Members to support the amendment.

I said that I would talk about the recession since it was referred to by the previous speaker. If I had been able to ask him a question, I would have asked how many were unemployed in his area of Thunder Bay. I do not know how many are unemployed there but I know how many are unemployed in my Province of British Columbia. In that Province, 16 per cent of the work force is unemployed. That is a shameful figure.

We must remember that it is the Government that created this recession. It just did not happen; it is a Government-created recession. While it is partly true when the Government says that there is a world recession, it is not completely true. When one reviews the statistics, one sees that Canada had the worst rate of growth last year of all the OECD countries, that is the industrialized countries in the western world. Our rate of growth was minus 5 per cent, which is last in the list of those countries. We should be near the top when we consider our natural resources and our skilled labour force, but we are last.

We are last because the Government zapped the economy. As a result of the action of the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Gerald Bouey, and successive Ministers of Finance,