

Borrowing Authority Act

military business in the United States, then there was no reason to suppose that the federal Government in particular could find a genius capable of reversing reality. By throwing a hundred million here and a billion there, the Government has not solved the problem; it has simply compounded it with taxpayers' money, thereby adding to our inflationary spiral, our increased interest rates and our rate of unemployment.

What does another aspiring leader, the Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development (Mr. Johnston), have to say about his Party and the Government? On page 5 of *Fiscalamity* in 1974 he stated:

● (1600)

This book is dedicated to all Canadians who share my belief that Canada, with its beauty, its resources, its people, and its legal-political heritage, could be a country of unequalled opportunity and happiness, were it not for too much taxation, too strong a bureaucracy, too much government, too much welfare, too many politicians, and too few statesmen.

To all of these criticisms we simply have to ask, who has been governing Canada since 1963? What Party has been in power?

Mr. Nystrom: The Liberals and the Tories.

Mr. Crouse: The Tories were in for a brief period, yes. We did have nine months in office. But I submit that our Party could never create all the mayhem which has happened under the ruling Liberals since 1963. These are criticisms by Liberals, some of whom seek to lead, not by the Tories. This is the joke of the 20th century, these criticisms of the Government and its overall mismanagement of the economy. This same Minister is also on the record as supporting the sale of Canadair.

What about the so-called crown prince, John Turner?

Mr. Evans: Now, now!

Mr. Crouse: "Now, now", someone says. I will be as fair as I can.

Mr. Turner: Are you talking about me?

Mr. Crouse: No, I am not talking about Charlie. I am talking about John, Mr. Speaker. I am only quoting from what I found on the front page of our newspapers just in the last few days. John Turner simply promised no miracles if he is elected Prime Minister. In fact, when interviewed he seemed to have no answers to anything on anything, aside from pointing out that our deficit in Canada is now 50 per cent higher on a relative basis than the deficit in the United States. He can only say, when asked at whose expense the deficit would be cut, that it would have to be at the expense of someone. Well, that is a profound statement. I watched his interview on CBC by Barbara Frum. At the end of the interview, she became so frustrated that she said, "Mr. Turner, you are giving answers to questions with questions. You have been out of office, free to think about these matters for a long time. The economy has been in trouble for some time. You ask Canadians for their confidence. Should you not, in fact, give them some answers

now to justify that confidence?" The answer to that was only a continuation of the original waffling.

I say to the Liberal Party through you, Mr. Speaker, that this is simply not good enough for the Canadian people. As a long-time Hon. Member of this House, I well remember the "Turner" years and the effect of his budgetary policies. Inflation, for example, as of January, 1972 was 4.9 per cent. By September of 1975, the inflation rate had more than doubled to 10.6 per cent. In the same period our unemployment rate jumped from 6.3 per cent to 10.6 per cent, an increase of 26.9 per cent. This same man, when asked if he had policy disputes with Mr. Trudeau, replied that whatever it was, it would remain between them. He was not going to resurrect the past but only deal with the future. In my view, Mr. Turner left Parliament Hill because he had failed to carry out the tasks assigned to him, and while he and the Liberal Party may like to forget about the past and only deal with the future, the record of the government's policies and its mismanagement of our economy is clear and plain enough for everyone to see. It will be remembered by all Canadians whenever the next federal election is called, and I feel certain they will render an honest and just verdict on the Liberal Party and its period in office.

I say to the Liberal Party, let us end this charade. Let us call a federal election as soon as possible and let the people decide the issues at the ballot box.

I stated earlier, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill places a very heavy responsibility on Hon. Members of the Opposition because of the excessive borrowing and spending programs of the Government which are slowly but surely pushing up interest rates. The pressure upon us is showing no signs of diminishing in spite of the hopeful dreams of the Minister of Finance. Last week one-year Treasury bills again moved upward. All of the present net federal debt matures within approximately two and a half years. The effect of last week's increase alone increases the cost of carrying our \$150 billion net debt by some \$750 million. The size of this increase totally shatters all of the Budget figures of the Minister of Finance.

Another important point is that this Bill makes no reference whatsoever to borrowing by Crown corporations, or to guarantees given by the Government of Canada in the open market for private companies. All of this uncertainty is having its effect on the value of the Canadian dollar, which has been moving up and down recently like a yoyo. The blame for this situation must be placed squarely on our Minister of Finance who is on the record as saying he was not losing any sleep over the fall in the purchasing power of our dollar. Here, of course, he is in direct conflict with the Governor of the Bank of Canada who is on the record as stating that letting the dollar slide still further would lead to almost immediate increases in inflation. Mr. Bouey said last week that he had no choice but to raise interest rates in order to maintain the fight against inflation, and he hinted that if the Government changed its policy, opting to let the dollar fall still further in order to promote sales abroad of Canadian goods, he would resign as Governor of Canada's central bank. Is it any wonder that our