

*Borrowing Authority*

**Mr. Rose:** I did not see the Speaker stand; I know I was being called to order.

**An hon. Member:** He didn't stand.

**Mr. Rose:** I should like now to return to question number two that I posed earlier, and that is precisely for what public works and for what other purposes does the minister need this money? I have not heard him discuss this at all, so I am naturally interested.

● (2130)

I have a suggestion. We have cut out Canada Works for most of Canada by a manipulation of the labour surplus rate to change it from 7 per cent to 9 per cent. That will affect many ridings in Canada, and it has completely precluded my riding from getting any of the former benefits. That means that some \$350,000 and from 30 to 40 jobs that we had in Mission-Port Moody, parts of which have a youth unemployment rate of something near 20 per cent, will be denied this kind of economic boost next year.

I am quite familiar with the arguments against band-aid programs, such as Opportunities for Youth, which we had about ten years ago, and various other kinds of make-work projects, including Canada Works. I am well aware that many people think that these programs have a lot of shortcomings and that make-work programs do not provide anything of a lasting value frequently because nobody picks up the funding after the short-term financing is over. Consequently, the people who were working on those projects are cast adrift again.

I would like to make one point relating to that matter, and that is that these programs do provide jobs for young people who have difficulty finding work because they have no experience. Therefore they provide young people with first job experience and some hope. I believe that this winter especially, since the government has withdrawn Canada Works without notice and without giving us any other kind of program in its place, the government will be forced to institute some kind of emergency program to deal with unemployment throughout Canada before the winter is out.

I do not think that I will impress the government in this way particularly, since they seem to be absolutely stubborn about putting a complete stop to give-away programs when they apply to people. When these programs apply to industries, resources and banks, however, they cannot give them away fast enough. But when the give-away programs apply to people, there is a great reluctance on the part of the government to put their money where the voters' needs are.

Certain parts of my riding are desperately in need of a crash employment program this winter, and we in this party think that it should be administered through the municipalities. I notice that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Nielsen) has just sat up and is listening—I thought I might have put him to sleep by now—and I would like to suggest to him that he discuss this matter with his cabinet colleagues because

[Mr. Rose.]

although there are a number of public works programs needed some are not necessarily federal.

The municipalities are equipped through their own experience, administrative capabilities and so on, and knowledge of the needs, to employ a great deal of money very quickly in programs such as pollution control and programs for roads, streets, lighting, sewers, and you name it, buildings, arenas, and the list goes on. These sorts of projects across Canada would provide great incentive to improve our municipalities and at the same time provide some hedge against the extremely destructive unemployment level this winter. I put that forward for the minister's consideration. It is a positive suggestion, but not a new one. I know that a lot of people will say that it is the same old nonsense and they have heard it before.

We are told we have to bite the bullet. The point is who will bite the bullet? Are MP's going to bite the bullet? Are corporation directors going to bite the bullet? Of course not. While we are in the Parliamentary Restaurant biting the filet mignon, the unemployed people in the street will be biting the bullet. I think that the government should consider those things and not be so hard and cruel and so bottom-line, because it makes people sick and it makes all of us on this side of the House sick, that the government could give away millions of dollars to pirates and buccaneers.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Buddies.

**Mr. Rose:** Yes, somebody has said buddies. The government gives away billions of dollars to these pirates and buccaneers while at the same time it is hard, cold, and unyielding to people who really need opportunities for work.

We need Winter Works projects and responsiveness from the government. I ask the government to restore these programs until they can develop the \$300 million job-creating program for youth that they promised during the election campaign, and about which we have not heard a sound since the election.

I would like to discuss clause 2, briefly, which allows the government to borrow abroad in foreign currency and to repay that money in the same currency. It allows the government to borrow up to \$7 billion. It allows the government to borrow almost the precise amount which the former minister of finance, the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) used a year ago to prop up the Canadian dollar. I do not want to argue at the moment about whether that was a wise decision. I happen to think that it was not a wise decision, but there are a number of people in this House who believe otherwise.

Nevertheless, we borrowed \$7 billion to prop up the Canadian dollar and it did not work. So what it means is that we have \$7 billion to repay at the rate of \$10 million a year, adding to our balance of payments deficit. Some economists are saying that it is not the money that is owed by the nation, the national debt which is the problem. While our children will be responsible for that debt, if we borrow from ourselves, they are also beneficiaries of the profits accruing from that debt's interest.