

*Borrowing Authority*

**Mr. Harquail:** Now that we have dealt with the intrusions and interruptions which are unfair, and which—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Restigouche should know that the Chair is charged with establishing order in the House. I would invite him to complete his answer, please.

**Mr. Harquail:** Yes, I would be delighted to complete my answer, and I thank Your Honour. I would only tell the Hon. Member that I think the evidence is very clear as to why I made that statement about the upturn in the economy.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Riis:** I would like to ask the Hon. Member a supplementary question. If he studied the record, he would find that I have not asked a single question in this House in the last six months which did not relate directly to the economy. Therefore, I am a little bit confused by the reference he made in his response. Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, I regret to interrupt Hon. Members again, but the time provided for questions and comments has expired. Debate?

**Mr. Keeper:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In light of the importance of this matter, I am wondering if the House would give unanimous consent to allowing a couple more questions to be asked of the Hon. Member.

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no!

**Mr. Cosgrove:** We want to hear from others.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Is there unanimous consent to allow the question period to continue?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** There is not unanimous consent.

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, having listened to the speech by the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail), we now know where some of the \$19 billion will go. It will go to Liberal pork barrel schemes in New Brunswick.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cosgrove:** That is intelligent.

**Mr. Nickerson:** Perhaps the Liberals are considering a coal liquefaction plant there to complement the one which will be put in the sister Province of Nova Scotia.

However, that is not what I want to discuss today. I want to discuss the principles behind the huge borrowing authority Bill requesting \$19 billion. This Bill really amounts to two Bills in one, two Bills which have been combined for the purposes of debate which should not have been combined. The first one is to allow an additional \$5 billion to be borrowed during the course of this fiscal year. That would bring the borrowing authority for this year up to a total of \$26.2 billion.

If one reviews the history of the accumulation of this borrowing authority, one finds a serious indictment of the Government in that it does not know what it is doing and is incapable of producing a reasonable financial plan. In addition to the \$3.5 billion or so of previous unexpired borrowing authority, the Government had to come back to this House with Bill C-111, requesting another \$6.5 billion, and then it came back with Bill C-125, requesting another \$7 billion. Then it came back a few months later with Bill C-128, requesting another \$4 billion, and here it is today with Bill C-143, requesting an additional \$5 billion for this one year. If this does not prove that the Government cannot get its financial act together, I do not know what does.

As I said before, the Bill is two Bills in one. What we should be doing is dealing with this \$5 billion requirement for this fiscal year now, and if the Government is in such poor shape that it really cannot get by without borrowing those additional funds, then the House might be prepared to deal with that matter expeditiously. However, the other \$14 billion—and I strongly suspect that there will be much more to come later—is not required until the next fiscal year.

There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why we cannot vote in favour of the amendment put forward during this debate by the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), deal with the \$5 billion, and then examine the request for the additional \$14 billion for the next fiscal year in the Standing Committee on Finance.

It is unheard of in the history of Parliament that a Government would come to Parliament to seek authority to borrow those sums of money without presenting the necessary projections telling us why it needs the money and how it intends to spend it. These are the types of issues which should be studied in detail in the Standing Committee.

The Government is mishandling its financial affairs, as we have seen from the Bill. Further, the way in which it puts House business together is so bad that it is forced into smuggling in important Bills, combining them, bringing in omnibus Bills, because it does not know what it is doing. It is wasting so much parliamentary time that it is not taking care of the necessary business of Canada. We have seen numerous illustrations of this. I suggest that all Hon. Members of the House consider voting in favour of the very reasonable amendment put forward by the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River.

I listened with great interest to one of the better presentations during the course of the debate made by the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis). He condemned the Government for seeking this borrowing authority—

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Nickerson:**—and quite rightly so. He pointed out some of the things I have pointed out as well. In fact, he used the 20 minutes or so available to him almost exclusively for that