

Borrowing Authority Act

An hon. Member: What was the mention of the French government?

Mr. Malone: The hon. member is probably the one who thought it was scurrilous. Read the record.

To get back to Bill C-7, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of which is for the government to borrow \$10 billion and not account for it, let us examine some of the hypotheses of how they might use that \$10 billion. One of the things they might very well do is build a swimming pool at Stornoway. The Prime Minister could easily look forward to living in a home with a swimming pool and \$10 billion could well build that. Hon. members on the other side might warm up to the fact that they are only about six months away from having a leader without a swimming pool. In their arrogance they refuse to let this parliament and therefore the country know why they want a blank cheque to spend any way they please.

The other more reasonable possibility is that they are borrowing this \$10 billion without indicating how it is to be spent because they want to use it as an election ploy—to give money away through government programs. I submit that is the dangerous, crass, dictatorial kind of administration we have had for ten years and which this government is again trying to impose upon the people of this country. They have taken away the concept of citizenship; there is no respect for the people and, therefore, the people have no respect for the government.

In ten years there have been ten speeches from the throne and in every single one the government has underscored that the major issue will be the economy. Today, everything is in a worse situation than it was ten years ago, however. Our balance of payments situation is worse, our debt is worse, national unity is fragmented. The fact of the matter is that on every dimension this country is worse off than it was a decade ago.

The Prime Minister has underscored the economy as the most important issue facing the nation in every throne speech for the last decade. In 1969 he said we would be on the road to financial disaster if nothing was done to bring spending under control. Little did he know at the time that he was roaring down the road at one hundred kilometres per hour headed for disaster. Our spending has increased some 230 per cent in the period he has been Prime Minister. He has literally robbed the people of this nation and unfortunately the debt will fall upon our children and grandchildren. It is generations ahead who will have to pay off this enormous debt.

The only people working productively today are those at the Canadian Mint. The government likes to point to the increase in the gross national product, but it must be related to what we are borrowing. The only reason the gross national product has increased is that the Mint is working double or triple shifts printing money in order to keep this government from falling into complete disorder. But the economy of this nation is already in disorder. Our balance of payments would be even worse today but for the fact that we are selling off our raw and primary resources.

[Mr. Malone.]

● (1712)

There is a tremendous shortfall in end product production in this country. We manufacture goods which create jobs and this puts money in Canadian bank accounts. This is a sector of industry which is very unproductive. If this government were running a 4-H club it would not know the difference between Herefords and heifers. If it was running a Boy Scout club it would give merit badges to the boy who could borrow and spend the most money. The truth of the matter is this government could not run either of those clubs, nor do they have the right or the prerogative to run this country.

This government over the past ten years has indicated three times that it would make significant cuts in its budget. While the government tells us about the cuts, each time a cut has been indicated without exception we have had an enormous increase. Frankly, I am scared when the government talks about cutting. When the government cuts, the increases are massive.

I have used words today which I used in all sincerity when talking about a dictatorial government. For example, during this past summer the Prime Minister went to Bonn where somehow he formulated an idea. He then travelled to Morocco where he consoled himself on the sands, finally to return to Canada. But within a few hours of his return he notified the national television networks of his intention to speak on the air in order to announce a \$2 billion cut in government spending. He did this without consulting the people of Canada, without consulting business, without consulting labour, but, most important of all, without consulting parliament and his cabinet. That is one-man rule. Here is a decision made to slice \$2 billion from government spending.

In my opinion this government never once intended to make cuts, because the Prime Minister has already attacked our party for suggesting some of the cuts should not have taken place. He is now saying: "Look, I have tried to make cuts and the opposition simply says we should not have made them there."

I believe that the cuts which the government made were made unilaterally by the Prime Minister, and he made them in the most popular sections of each of the departments of this government. It appears to me that the Prime Minister did this deliberately and for the precise reason of getting the opposition members and the country mad so that he could shrug his shoulders and say: "Look, I have tried to make cuts but it is the reverse they want". I say look where the cuts have been made. The Prime Minister did not do away with Petro-Can, as our party is advocating. We do not need an oil company run by the same mentality as the post office. Instead the Prime Minister cut CanFarm and research to the fisheries and forestry. The Prime Minister cut weather stations located off the Atlantic coast which are vital to the fishing industry.

Those cuts were made deliberately in order to anger the population, so that when that anger reared its head the Prime Minister could shrug his shoulders and say: "I tried to make cuts, the public are angry. Obviously they want more government spending." That was the most dictatorial act this country