

Government Orders

We can come up with plans. We can come up with plans for Canada. We can come up with plans for Canada to work to help other nations that are trying to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, but we are not doing it. We are giving no real thought to that, as far as I am concerned.

All we are really concerned about is the size of the deficit, which in the main acts as a way of redistributing income. The way it really works is that it takes more income from the lower and middle classes by way of interest and shifts it to those with money to invest, the higher income people. The deficit is a way of redistributing income. As long as the money is borrowed internally, there is not that much real problem in handling it. As I say, it is shifting the income in the wrong direction, but it is still handled as long as we are doing it internally.

In that regard I can go back to the advice of a former minister of finance in the province of British Columbia, a Tory as well, Herbert Anscombe, who said in the late forties, I believe, that if a government has to borrow—and it should not borrow—it should make sure that it does its borrowing within its own boundaries. In his case he was talking about B.C. In Canada we should be borrowing within Canada. We should not be borrowing outside.

We have done it before. I talked earlier about the war effort that put the people in South Wellington back into the coal mines, back working. Canada could not borrow during that war. Canadians put out a real effort to fight the Second World War. We never borrowed a nickel from abroad. There was nobody who would lend it to us then. They were all investing their own money in their own weapons manufacturing and whatever. We had a million people who were not working when our population was about, I suppose, 30 per cent or 40 per cent of what it is today, a million people in uniform contributing nothing positive, burning it up, using it up; we were producing a lot of stuff that was being sunk in the North Atlantic. However, people were working. They had jobs. There was enough for them to eat. There were clothes for them to wear. They could buy things that they could not buy before the war started, before Hitler put them all to work.

I used to listen to this very prominent spokesman for the CCF. He was not the party leader. He was a medical

doctor, Dr. Lyle Telford. He talked about how ridiculous we are in our society when there is no limit to the amount of effort that a community can be organized into producing if we are preparing for or fighting a war. But when it comes to feeding our own hungry people who do not have clothes to wear, proper accommodations and all those things, or when it comes to helping other nations of the world, we do not have the money to do it. We have the money only when we are preparing for or fighting a war.

There is a better answer. This legislation is in the old style. It is what we were preparing to do in the early 1930s and started to do later on in the 1930s. It put the coal miners to work. They were thankful. They appreciated Hitler, they really did. I am not kidding; I am not joking. They were in pretty bad shape. They recognized that it was what he was doing, as bad as it was, that put them back to work and enabled them to put food on their tables and clothing on their children and themselves.

What a way to run a country. What a failure. What a shame that in Canada today, some 58 years later, we are still only able to come up with solutions that result in murdering more people.

I am ashamed that we are going to pass this legislation, and I recognize we are. I wonder just how long it will be before we are arguing the next step down the road. There is a better route.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill before us, Bill C-6, is to amend the gun control provisions of the Criminal Code and the Export and Import Permits Act to permit the export of automatic firearms to the armed forces of other countries. That is the purpose of the bill, to permit the export of automatic firearms to the armed forces of other countries.

We are opposed to this bill as written because it is wide open. It permits the sale of these firearms to any country whatsoever. The minister, in his speech this morning, said that only those countries with which the government has an intergovernmental defence, research, development and production arrangement would be on the list of those who might be sold these weapons. But that is not how the legislation reads. The legislation reads differently than the speech of the hon. minister.