

Borrowing Authority Act

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had attended the sitting yesterday. I refer him to page 353 of yesterday's *Hansard* where he will find the answer to his question.

[English]

MR. JONES—DELAY IN ANSWERING QUESTION NO. 69

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have a question, No. 69, on the order paper, which has been there since July 12, 1977, all last spring and last fall. I had promises in this House from the parliamentary secretary that I would receive an answer within a few days, a few days, a few weeks, but another 16 months have passed. I would ask that the parliamentary secretary do everything to get that answer within the next week.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. Could the hon. member repeat the number of the question, please?

Mr. Jones: Question No. 69. I do not know what the number was on July 12, 1977, and I do not know what the number was when the House started in the fall for that third session, but this is the fourth session.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1978-79-80

MEASURE TO GRANT SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING POWER

The House resumed, from Monday, October 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-7, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1978-79, to provide borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1979-80 and to amend the Financial Administration Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the remarks I had intended to make yesterday have long since passed from my mind in view of the circumstances today. My first words today are words of welcome to the new members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I hope, if they get an opportunity to sit and ponder, that they will learn the first rule of this House is a bad one, namely, that every

[Mr. Pinard.]

member who comes here thinks that all history starts from that moment. It takes us most of our lifetimes to realize that it actually started before that.

The second thing is that they come here on a day that I think is very typical of the last several years of this parliament and the type of exchange that goes on between the opposition and the government side regarding a very critical matter on which this whole nation's integrity depends. When they ponder the questions and answers and the attitudes, I think they will have learned a good lesson with which to start. This was a good day.

When he spoke in this debate yesterday I believe the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) touched on something that has been overlooked almost entirely in this whole discussion of the economic situation in Canada. He made it very clear that the real sufferers in this type of action by the government over the last ten years are not only this generation but the generations that will follow. By this type of bill we are transferring the financial obligations of our country to the next and succeeding generations. The hon. member pointed out yesterday that the real culprit and the fundamental danger to our country are this attack on our sons and grandsons who will have to pay for the mistakes we have been making for the last ten years.

Put into perspective, Canada is not alone in this mess; Canada is part of a worldwide revolution which really began on the North American continent about 50 years ago. It started in Europe 50 years before that. This social revolution was supported by all parties in varying degrees. There is not a party in Canada that would say, "Turn back the clock on what we are trying to do on behalf of bringing social equity to all levels of our people." This social revolution has come so fast and at such a cost in the last ten or 15 years, and there was so much waste in the last ten or 15 years, that we are finding it hard to pay for it at all levels of government. This is not only true in Canada but is true in all western countries.

A huge proportion of the wealth of the nation each year has to go for the payment of services that we all want and that we intend to keep if at all possible, but we have got into the habit and the fatal blunder, destructive blunder, of more and more of these costs of what we are taking for ourselves today being left as a debt for our sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons to pay. I think the thanks of all Canadians should go to the hon. member for Provencher for putting his finger right on the sin we are all committing.

This bill is just one of the sins. It calls on us to approve or authorize the government to borrow up to \$17 billion in this one year to carry out the services we want, to keep on carrying this place, to keep on carrying the incompetence of this government, not charging it to ourselves today but charging it to the future.

If one looks at what the demographic charts are showing it is that in ten, 20, 30, 40 or 50 years there will not be enough young people coming along in western nations to carry this ever-increasing load we are laying on them 20, 30 or 40 years in advance. As a nation we are deliberately planning a geria-