

Time Allocation

for. In the House of Commons they tell us only what they are against.

Mr. Epp: We had a policy convention in Toronto in May.

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I did not expect the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) to end her speech so quickly, so I have been caught unawares. The point the Hon. Member gets from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) that this whole situation is caused by a world recession—

Mr. Riis: Is not true.

Mr. Fennell: That is right, it is not true. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said that is not true. That is one point on which we do agree. Canada has greater opportunity than any country in this world. We should not have suffered through the recession as we did. We have all the natural resources. We have more than any other country in the world and we are doing nothing about it. I maintain it is entirely due to the incompetence of this Liberal Government that brought this country down on its heels for the last 15 years.

On borrowing Bills, the Government should give the public and Members of Parliament an explanation so that we can all understand. We keep getting every two or three months new amounts which the Government wants to borrow. Could the Government not present to the House the amount of money that is outstanding, to whom it is owed, when it will become due, and give an explanation? The Government should explain why the Government needs the additional amount. Together with that, I believe the Government should bring in the amount it estimates will be created in specie. We get a tiny, little picture on everything from the Liberal Government. We do not get a complete picture with which we can work. We get only little bits and pieces. I request the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Cosgrove) ¹⁹ discuss this point and give us a total picture so that Canadians will know the predicament which this additional borrowing will cause us.

I read through some notes on this borrowing and I find that of the total, about \$2 billion will be carried over to the next year. We are talking about \$5 billion and \$2 billion being carried over. Then there is another \$14 billion. We do not know how long that will last. Surely the Government has an over-all opinion as to how long that amount will last. The Government leaves us with such little information that we cannot assess these Bills properly and do the research required. Furthermore, we cannot the Government brings in a Bill on borrowing before we have a budget which would tell us how the Government will spend the money. This is not treating Canadians with dignity. This is not treating this House with dignity. We are not given an opportunity to discuss these Bills appropriately. We do not have all the facts.

The Estimates are wonderful if one has the sense to assess what part comes under a super Ministry and what part comes under a direct Ministry. The Estimates have hidden amounts throughout. Certain programs are tucked away in every

corner. We have tried to simplify it. My friend, the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington), has come forward along with with one of your Members, Mr. Speaker, to present a proposal which will enable Members of Parliament to work with a real purpose and to come up with some answers. Then we will know what is happening. I do not think the Government knows what is happening. I do not think the Government knows where the money is being spent. If the Government does not know, how can we in the Opposition, lacking information, be expected to know? Why does the Government want \$19 billion now when it is talking about a \$90 billion budget? Does the Government know now how much of that money will be required this year, next year, and the year after? We do not have enough information to know what the debt is at the present time. We have been told various amounts. We have been told it is \$122 billion at the end of 1983. I heard another comment that it was \$137 billion. I do not know how many billions it is. It is beyond us. We do not have our hands on it. We talk in the House but we do not really have our hands on these amounts. That is why we are fighting closure today.

This subject of borrowing should be taken to committee. Closure should not be imposed in the House of Commons on this matter. This matter should be taken to committee so we can ask questions of the Ministers. They are responsible to the people of Canada. We are not getting the information in this House. The only place we can get it is in committee.

As an aside on that point, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. One day I asked exactly the same question—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but the Chair sees two other Members standing and holding a conversation in the House. Out of respect for the Hon. Member who has the floor, Hon. Members should try as much as possible to hold their conversations elsewhere.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present the apologies of my colleague, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) and myself, to the Hon. Member for Ontario (Mr. Fennell).

Mr. Fennell: Mr. Speaker, as an aside, I hope perhaps those two gentlemen were having a discussion having something to do with mandatory supervision, a subject which is very close to my heart. As the Minister walks out of the House, I hope he hears those few words and takes some action.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fennell: I could get into a debate of a whole hour and a half on that subject, but I will stay with the matter under debate, that is, closure. We fight closure because we are not given the information we require. We must get this information. I accept that during the good times we built up social justice programs to such an extent that at this point we cannot cut back. The people who benefit from these programs are the ones who suffer the most. The one thing this Government is