Borrowing Authority

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) has the floor.

Mr. Della Noce: I am afraid my hon. friend misunderstood the question. He is very busy with his notes and I suggest that he probably does not remember using as usual such highly colourful terms. However, I too should like to ask the House whether the Hon. Member should not be called to order because I do not think he should use such language when addressing one of his colleague, whether a Conservative, a Liberal or an NDP—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair suggests that there have been procedural infringements on both sides. I do not think it was in order for the Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent) to mention the presence or absence of one of his colleagues in the House, nor was it in order for the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) to use unparliamentary language when addressing one of his colleagues. I think that now we should simply continue with the debate. The Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent).

Mr. Vincent: Madam Speaker, you are an outstanding politician and a great Speaker. We will gladly abide by your decision.

I should like to begin by quoting a phrase: Good management makes for good government which means that the Government, instead of being part of the economic problem, is now part of its solution. In this context, Madam Speaker, I will tell the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte Marie who stated that the funds sought today through this borrowing authority legislation will be spent to help the affluent, that I am quite disappointed with him. I thought he knew how the Parliament of this country worked, Madam Speaker. I was under the impression that, having sat here from 1979-80 to 1987, he would know about the workings of the Canadian Parliament. Unfortunately, I find out that he does not. The reason may be that before 1984, he did not rise in the House too often—

Mr. Tardif (Richmond—Wolfe): Two years from now, we will not see you here any longer either.

Mr. Vincent: —and did not participate in debates quite as often as he does now.

• (1320)

You know, Madam Speaker, that the authority granted under the legislation enables the Government to borrow, but you also know that the authority to spend those funds requires that another legislation be passed by this Parliament. Now, when I am told that this borrowing authority enables the Government to spend for the rich, it fails to make any sense, Madam Speaker, and I know that you understand that as well as my colleagues on this side of the House. This information will help the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) understand the Canadian parliamentary system.

Then, unfortunately, he was dishonest to some extent when he dealt with the problem of Western banks and said again that the money was paid out to the rich. You know quite well, Madam Speaker, that the serious problem experienced by some Western banks had an impact at the national and international levels and we had to show that our Canadian banking system was sound as is widely recognized. You know that the depositors were credit unions, municipalities, hospitals and charitable organizations. Those were the kinds of institutions which could not afford to incur such losses and which afterwards would have applied for assistance to the provincial governments. The latter would then have turned to the federal Government which would have been forced to help those organizations. I think that on the one hand, we have shown that the Canadian banking system was sound and on the other hand, that the Government of Canada has taken up its responsibilities.

If there are people talking about immoderate spending, about mismanagement of the affairs of the state, as the Hon. Member from Montreal—Sainte-Marie has suggested, I would have liked him to recall the scientific research tax credit that was established in 1984, and because of which billions of dollars—not a few bucks, not thousands of bucks, not millions, and I see the Hon. Member for Richmond—Wolfe (M. Tardif) is laughing. He laughs at their spending billions of dollars to help rich companies on the backs—

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): On the backs of the poor!

Mr. Vincent: —not only the poor, as the Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne) is suggesting, but on the backs of our Canadian researchers, who did not get that money. They have nothing, and we have to stand by with empty coffers in 1984, in 1985, in 1986, in 1987. And why empty coffers? Because this Hon. Member, who was there before 1984 and who today is laughing about those billions of dollars, that Hon. Member voted so that companies could make passes, pick up research tax credits and put the money in their pockets. And this Hon. Member who laughs at it today—on top of that, Madam Speaker, he finds courage to laugh at it. I would be ashamed, I would rather be eating sandwiches rather than laugh in this House where you voted and supported that.

Madam Speaker, you are right, that same Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie talks about the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister came here in 1984 and immediately cut his own salary, the salaries of his Ministers...

An Hon. Member: Because they have envelopes!

Mr. Vincent: There are no envelopes, and that you know, Madam Speaker. He cut his own salary three years in a row. It is interesting to know that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) has refused to have his salary cut.

Mr. Tardif (Richmond—Wolfe): There are no envelopes on this side of the House.