

According to independent estimates last spring the total bill for full implementation of the government program ranged between \$6 billion and \$10 billion. The Tory platform was estimated to cost from \$6 billion to \$10 billion. Inevitably, if all their proposals are put into effect, honourable senators, the federal deficit is going to have to grow much larger. There is no way around it. That is something that the Conservatives say they stand against, but they simply cannot have it both ways. They may try, however, proving the truth of a statement made more than 100 years ago by the British statesman Disraeli who defined a Conservative government as "an organized hypocrisy". We are not accusing this government of being "an organized hypocrisy"; that would be an unfair judgment to make. But now it is for this government to prove that there was no hypocrisy at all in its range of campaign promises. There is a list of 45 main promises costing \$10 billion. I have that full list in my hand, and if honourable ministers and honourable members of the Conservative Party on the other side have lost their lists, I shall cheerfully provide them with copies of the one I have before me. I should be delighted to do so. But wait until I finish my speech.

I do not think there is any intention on the part of our government colleagues in the Senate to be hypocritical, but they do have a serious responsibility to prove that they intend conscientiously to implement the platform which elected them to office on May 22.

In addition to the deficit question, there is what some of us feel to be the ill-conceived plan for the economy as outlined during the election campaign which is likely to produce higher inflation, greater unemployment and a weaker dollar. And the danger signs are already in our midst. That assessment was offered not merely by politicians engaged in that campaign against the government party, but by the prestigious Centre for Policy Analysis at the University of Toronto. Even the Conservatives, own internal economic assessment released in July predicts a higher jobless rate and slow growth. These aspects of the Conservative campaign promises are worrisome, to say the least, but Canadians may not have to be too troubled about their impact, again proving, or at least partially supporting, Disraeli's point.

The new Finance Minister, the Honourable John Crosbie, was reported in July as saying, "Our party feels no obligation whatsoever to implement what it has promised to do." He said, "The Conservative government thinks it has a completely free hand, unfettered by its promises to Canadians." I repeat that, honourable senators: "unfettered by its promises to Canadians." It was in that same interview, honourable senators, that he branded himself as Canada's "Mr. Tough Guy." Mr. Crosbie has ruled, among other things, that his leader's promise of a massive tax cut for Canadians, totalling some \$2 billion, is in that category. That is "Mr. Tough Guy's" statement, that it really was a promise not meant to be kept, and he is tough enough to keep from implementing it. That was one of Mr. Clark's main campaign planks, and yet how quickly it has been forgotten. However, it will not be forgotten by the people who serve in the opposition in this chamber.

Canadians will find it just a bit more passing strange that the Tory "Mr. Nice Guys" of last spring—remember they were "Mr. Nice Guys" and "Mrs. Nice Guys" and "Ms. Nice People" last spring who pretended to have a magical package of ideas—new easy solutions for every problem—why they even had solutions to the problem of how to get stains out of the kitchen sink; a solution for everything—well, they have in fact no such magic and now seem content to call themselves tough guys and blame all of their difficulties on the previous administration. That, honourable senators, was the most predictable thing they have done so far—to blame the previous government. How long do they think Canadians will be prepared to accept such a cop-out?

Surely we in opposition have a responsibility to remind the government day by day of the promises they have made and to remind them also that promises are made to be kept. The Tory legacy of broken promises is much larger than simply the renegeing upon that \$2 billion tax break and the reincarnation or perhaps the re-emergence of Mr. Crosbie as Canada's "Mr. Tough Guy."

I have here that list of just some of the commitments made by the Conservatives during that campaign last spring. The list is only a partial one. Our research staff is still working on it because there are many more Tory promises to go. This partial list of "goodies" numbers 45 so far, with a long way to go. I have not noted the minor ones. The hundreds of small ones are kept in a sort of "Category B," but we shall remember those as well. But these are 45 separate promises. This has been the most "promising" government in Canada's history.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: But not in the sense, my friends, that you are applauding. That word "promising" is meant to be in quotation marks.

Senator Stuart: Promises, promises, promises.

Senator Perrault: "Promises, promises, promises," says the distinguished Senator Stuart.

● (1600)

Most of these 45 promises have been dumped unceremoniously in the nearest political ashcan, with the new Tory ministers retreating in droves—faster than Napoleon retreated from Moscow—from commitments they made, as they vainly hope that the memory of Canadians will be a short one.

Senator Stuart: We shall remember!

Senator Perrault: But, honourable senators, as Honourable Senator Stuart has said, "We shall remember!"

Let me say just a few words about two promises the Conservatives seem bent upon keeping.

Senator Flynn: Only two?

Senator Perrault: They are two of the worst. My friend, if I went through the complete list of all of the promises which have not been kept and described them in detail, we would be here until five o'clock tomorrow morning and we would just be making a start.