

recognize the fact that it is the government and its lack of a sense of responsibility which has created, over the last ten or 12 years, this situation of high interest rates that Canadians are trying to live with.

• (2110)

They do not only affect housing. When we build a house, we affect our society pretty dramatically. I will just read something into the record from an Informetrica study in April, 1980. It showed that for every additional 1,000 housing starts during a given year, 1,635 man-years of employment are created over the course of two years. For each 1,000 houses, 1,635 jobs are created, 460 of which go right into the construction industry. However, the remainder of those jobs are primarily generated in those sectors of the economy which supply material inputs and services to the construction industry. Five hundred and ten man-years of employment for 1,000 housing starts are generated in manufacturing. Hon. members of this chamber who come from Ontario and Quebec, particularly the southern parts, can look at their local newspapers, listen to the local radio stations, and watch the television news, and they can see all the examples of plant closures and people who are being put out of work as a result of lay-offs. I wonder if they remember those nine months of the Clark government in which a sense of direction was clearly signalled to this country, a sense of a government and a party which valued ownership. People believed and started to act on that sense of direction, and over that nine-month period an average of 35,000 jobs per month were created. In the public sector, tax spending jobs went down. However, in the private sector, tax generating jobs and the provision of goods and services went up throughout that entire nine-month period.

Then the Liberal Party, which consulted the NDP, decided that too much prosperity was not good for Canadians.

Mr. Gustafson: Right on.

Mr. Hawkes: They thought it was best to have many people unemployed so that the government could appeal to them politically. They would not be happy to have everyone working, satisfied and feeling productive. They said they would put the other guys back in. &ed3955;-1

I stand here in this House tonight, some two years later, and I find the exact opposite has happened. In the last year, Canadians have lost jobs at the rate of 35,000 a month. Two years ago, we were creating them at the rate of 35,000 a month. The NDP decided to put these guys on the other side back into power so we could lose 35,000 jobs a month.

Mr. Gustafson: Thanks to the NDP!

Mr. Hawkes: In all of the history of this nation since it started to keep statistics on employment, this was the first time when there were less jobs in the Canadian economy at the end of the year than there were at the beginning. I ask Your Honour, is that a consequence of the nine months of the Clark government, its policy and its legislation? Most Canadians may not realize it, but because of the filibuster of the NDP and the Liberal Party, we did not pass any legislation. They

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blocked the House. They filibustered. They would not let anything go through. However, the amount of jobs still went up because people sensed that there was an honest government which cared and which would attempt to keep its commitments.

What is wrong in Canada today? it is not necessarily the legislation. It is predominantly that sense of certitude here in this land that the group in charge in Ottawa is interested in public relations, in chicanery and, in deceit, but not in proposing honest policies which can be believed. In that climate, the people, the money and the equipment tend to drift, tend to be driven toward a political climate which investors view as more trustworthy. They want a sense of certitude. The tragedy in Canada is that they have a sense of certitude that they cannot trust and they cannot believe in the government.

If every Canadian could read those newspaper ads and the budget speech of the Minister of Finance and then look at the piece of the legislation before us tonight, Bill C-89, they would know that this piece of legislation is a piece of chicanery, a piece of trickery. It falls so far short of the promises of that budget speech and the tone of that advertising campaign that it becomes one more piece of concrete evidence that we have a cabinet in Canada whose members cannot be trusted. One cannot listen to what they say with belief. One simply cannot. Canadians now have such a sense of certitude in that respect that they do not follow up the details. They just think the first thought that comes to their minds. Each time the backbenchers on the opposite side and the New Democratic Party support that kind of chicanery, they undermine the long-term health of our entire parliamentary system.

Mr. Fulton: Point of order. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out to the Tories that they are voting two to one with the Liberals. As a matter of fact, they voted four times—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That does not constitute a point of order.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, the hon. members in the NDP keep rising, and they do not like it to be known that there was a vote of confidence in this government last Friday, and that eight of their 33 members were missing. Twenty-five per cent would not even show up in this chamber in an effort to defeat this rotten government. Their new marvellous leader in the province of Ontario, drawing a public salary from this chamber, was sitting on a beach in Florida.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Hawkes: Now they stand and quote a voting record. Did they tell Your Honour what we voted for and what we vote against?

Mr. Epp: He didn't even come home from Strasbourg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the hon. member, I call to his attention the fact that the item before the House is a bill respecting housing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!