

Government Orders

Parliament, has increased its loans 13 per cent in the last year.

I am starting to see a sign of improved credit availability. It is still not good enough, and I agree with the hon. member we should monitor it closely.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burlington—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I found it a bit intriguing to listen to the minister for small businesses and to notice that while he was talking about matters within his portfolio he had to read fairly slavishly the speech in front of him in both languages. However, when it came time to quote Preston Manning he had it down by heart, word for word.

I thought that was fairly instructive. Members over there are experts at quoting Preston Manning. If only they were as adept, as skilled and as familiar with the concerns including some of the graphic quotes about this government from ordinary Canadians, we would be a lot better off.

The following appeared in *The Ottawa Citizen* a couple of days ago:

The Prime Minister has admitted that he failed to realize the scope of the recession and he may have mistimed some important economic initiatives.

That is like my standing here and saying that Christmas this year is coming on December 25. If he failed to realize that, he must be about the only Canadian, let alone the only leader out there. If he only now realizes that he mistimed some of his initiatives, again he must be the only one out there.

Who knows? Maybe there are a few more things he did not know until now that he is prepared to own up to. Does he not know yet, for example, that because of the kind of legislation we have before us today we are losing some of our best minds in the area of research and development to other countries?

I heard an agonizing story this morning. I had in my office a lady professor from the Ontario Institute for Studies and Education. I asked her for examples and she gave me two specific examples, both of eminent researchers from a couple of universities in Montreal who have gone in one case to Harvard and in another case to UCLA in California. In the first case the person has a research budget four times what he could have at a Canadian university. This relates directly to the way the government has treated research and development.

Is the Prime Minister now prepared to do a *mea culpa* on this one too? Is he now prepared to say: "I did not know that my policies were causing such havoc in the university community?" Does he want to do a *mea culpa* now by saying: "I did not realize that I was keeping so many students out of university because since 1984 I have not adjusted the floor amount that a person can access under Canada Student Loans?"

That is a fact. In eight years this government, despite increasing costs, inflation and so on, has not adjusted the amount that students can apply for. Even when they qualify for a student loan, they do not have enough in their hands to get through university.

Does he want to do a *mea culpa* on that one and say: "I did not know about the recession; I did not know I was driving all the best minds out of the country; and I did not know I was standing in the way of thousands of would-be university students getting into university?"

On other matters, does he now know what his policy has done in terms of foreign overfishing on the south coast of Newfoundland and the fish plants that have closed? Does he now know about the thousands and tens of thousands of people who are put out of work? Does he want to do a *mea culpa* on that one right now?

Does he want to admit and apologize for the devastation, the unfairness of the fisheries programs being implemented by his minister of fisheries as they relate to people on the south coast and the southwest coast of Newfoundland? Does he want to admit and apologize for the blatant unfairness as it relates to the people of Ramea who handled northern cod before the minister knew what a northern cod or a southern cod looked like?

Those people are being hung out to dry. Does the Prime Minister want to do a *mea culpa* on that particular issue while he is in a fessing up mood?

Deathbed repentances, whether to do with recession, the depths of it, the devastation caused by his policy on foreigners fishing off the Grand Banks, Canada Student Loans or the brain drain from Canada to other countries, particularly the United States, ought to be seen for what they are.

Someone has said that nothing concentrates a man's thinking as much as the certain knowledge that he is to be hanged in the morning. Maybe the Prime Minister has had more than one touch of reality. Maybe he is beginning, a couple of weeks after the event, to absorb what the public said to him on October 26. I say to him