

them, because they will be destroying the trust which should be inherent between the Government and its people.

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, I followed with considerable interest the speech of the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith). I felt that the initial part of the speech was very balanced, and I too have that same sense when walking to Parliament Hill early in the morning.

The Hon. Member then got into the difficult terrain of trying to reconcile campaign statements with subsequent action or a change of course. Two Members of this House have already brought home to the Member the record of his own Party, such as the questions of double-tracking in the West, 18 cents a gallon, wrestling inflation to the ground and price and wage controls. The list is long, and I do not have to remind Members of this House that his Party, as he has acknowledged, said one thing in the course of an election campaign and found fit, for whatever reasons, to do something quite different at a later time. In fact, I surmise that it may have been his own experience, in having tried to reconcile the different course that his Government took when in office from what it said during the course of the campaign, that has made him sensitive to the particular challenge which the present Government faces.

The fact remains that the Government has made a strong commitment, which was reiterated in the Throne Speech, to social justice, as reflected through social programs which have been built up over a number of years. We also recognize the need to ask certain questions about those programs through the parliamentary committee, and the Hon. Member has read into the record of the House a number of the questions which that committee will be addressing.

I would ask the Hon. Member how questions that are contained in a public document can constitute a hidden agenda. Moreover, I would ask the Hon. Member whether he believes that his questions should not be asked at this time by a parliamentary committee in order to come to an understanding effectively and thoroughly of whether the House is fulfilling its duty to the Canadian people in providing effective social programs. If he does not feel that this is the time to ask those questions, I would ask him when they should be asked.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, I raised those questions to put them on the record because they are legitimate questions. They were raised on the middle of the summer election campaign. The Liberal Party chose to say it was not going to try to outbid the other Party and bring in social programs which would cost more dollars and increase the size of the deficit. The Conservative Party chose to campaign on that basis. It campaigned on the basis that it acknowledged that the deficit was \$37 billion, yet it still chose to make promises and commitments to the Canadian public. All I am suggesting is that that is very dishonest. We all know that there are 200 weeks before the next federal election, Throne Speeches will happen once or twice in this Parliament, and there will probably be five or six budgets, but I wanted to ensure that the initial stage was set by reading into the record the promises that were made by the

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Conservative Government. I can only hope that those promises are carried through.

Mr. Stackhouse: Mr. Speaker, I am rising because the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith), has appointed himself as aide-mémoire to the Government. However, I would say that he should not be too forgetful of his own Party's record. I will not repeat what some of my colleagues have said, but I would not want him to forget some promises which his Party made when they were campaigning—sometimes successfully—such as reducing the deficit. The only things which he found favour with in the Speech from the Throne and the economic statement were those which would add to spending. Spending seems to be in favour on that side, not cutting the deficit, although that was one of the Liberal Party's promises in 1980.

I would like to draw to his attention a promise which was made by the former Liberal Prime Minister and his Party to the people of metropolitan Toronto. They promised a heavily-subsidized program of urban transport, but not a dollar was ever received. That is only one of a long list of broken promises.

In the program which the Government has announced thus far, there have been certain positive aids to cut unemployment and to increase job opportunities in this country. It must be emphasized that we have no future economically and no future for a social justice program unless we cut the deficit and stimulate the economy. That is the objective of the economic statement.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) that, with respect to unemployment, in Question Period today the Minister of Finance has agreed and knows that the econometric model that he used in the mini-budget shows that the unemployment rate will be marginally higher two years hence than it is today. I know that the Hon. Member comes from an urban riding, but I come from a riding in northern Ontario which has experienced the highest level of unemployment, statistically, for the last three years. As a Member from that area, I would suggest that all those make-work projects and Section 38 were instrumental in keeping my community afloat. I hope that private Members on the Government side who are experiencing high levels of unemployment in their areas will keep their Government honest by pushing for those programs for which the NDP and the Liberal Party have fought for decades.

• (1710)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): As questions and answers have now been terminated, I would like to recognize the Hon. Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Edwards).

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, I consider it propitious that the Hon. Member for Edmonton North (Mr. Paproski) is occupying the chair at this moment. I congratulate him as the senior member of the Edmonton caucus on his nomination. I congratulate as well the Hon. Mr. Speaker and the Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker.