

no jobs, no jobs and no jobs. That is the problem we are having right now.

As far as tourism is concerned, I believe like the hon. member that small business is the motor of the economy. It is up to the government again to stimulate that motor and make sure that there are oil and fuel for that motor. Right now it is working in reverse.

The government is not stimulating. There is no gas in the tank. One of the small businesses that can be developed is the tourism industry. I spoke about economic conferences a while ago in the riding. Those are two priorities of the economic conference that I spoke about. They are going to continue to be priorities.

It is a priority in the province of New Brunswick but we need a partnership. There has to be a partnership of the people, the municipal governments, the provincial governments and the federal government. People cannot do it alone. We have to take a full share, a full partnership in that job.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition that condemns the government for economic mismanagement that has supposedly led to an intolerable and tragic level of unemployment and bankruptcy in Canada. I must tell you that when the Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Finance in 1981 the Bank of Canada rate stood at 22 per cent, whereas it is now 7.54 per cent. In August 1981 the prime rate was 22.75 per cent under his governance, whereas it now stands at 8 per cent.

At that time the mortgage rate for five years was 21.75 per cent and it is now 9.9 per cent. The rate for one year was 21.25 per cent then compared to 8.75 per cent now. All this to tell you that in spite of unfavourable conditions, we took the necessary steps to try to alleviate the recession and revitalize the economy.

Mr. Speaker, it requires a lot of courage on the part of my leader to take measures which will bring back prosperity to Canadians. As you know, we reached rock bottom with 12 per cent in the polls, but if we stopped talking about the Constitution and solved this problem,

Supply

maybe interest rates would go down even more in a next week, perhaps even by 2 per cent.

We made important achievements since we took power, but nobody talks about those today. As far as the free trade agreement with the United States is concerned, some members opposite have said a moment ago that it was not beneficial to Canadians. I understand that there can be losers in this agreement or trade, but there are winners as well. I can tell you that my community, Drummondville, was chosen industrial city of the year in Quebec in 1991, and it is precisely because industry people and firms of my community did business with the United States and increased their trade with them.

There was also, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the tax reform and there was the much acclaimed removal of the 13.5 per cent tax that eroded our exports. Now you will see the positive side of the implementation of the new tax. There was also the deregulation and the privatization of several Crown corporations, and you will soon realize all the changes and the well-being it implies.

You saw the critics recently, the reduction of federal government expenditures, and the freeze in the public service. We were courageous enough to introduce similar systems which also—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member.

[*English*]

It being 5.45 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 81(15), to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the business of supply.

[*Translation*]

Therefore the question in on the amendment of Ms. McLaughlin.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.