

I believe there is already a national consensus on one very important issue, and that is that the most important issue of the day is job creation, providing jobs for the Canadian people from one coast to the other. In this Parliament we must make a massive contribution to the creation of long-term, permanent jobs for Canadians. That must be the number one priority.

● (1440)

Unfortunately, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, last night we saw the Government going in exactly the opposite direction. We saw it do two things; first, it cut back on services by \$4.2 billion a year, some \$430 million of that in the Department of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Just today in the House we heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) confirm that they have run these figures through their economic model, through the computers, but he will not table the lists of what kind of job losses or job increases resulted from that.

Mr. Dick: He did not say that!

Mr. Nystrom: We asked him very clearly to make public that list—perhaps the Hon. Member was not here this morning for Question Period—but he will not do it.

Mr. Dick: The Minister never said that!

Mr. Nystrom: I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what is he trying to hide? I thought the Prime Minister believed in open government. When he was in opposition he asked for an open government. He wanted more freedom of information. All of a sudden, now that he is on the other side only two months later, he is not going to make available those statistics for the Canadian people to see. I really wonder what he is trying to hide, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I just want to mention to the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom), if he wants to be accurate, that if he was here this morning he would have realized that it was the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) who said they had put it through an economic model.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair rules that this is not a point of order.

Mr. Nystrom: I think he just proved my point, Mr. Speaker. If he will check the blues or *Hansard* on Tuesday morning he will see that the Prime Minister will not make a commitment to make that information public.

Something else which happened last night, Mr. Speaker, which really concerns me is that we have now seen some tax increases. The sales tax has gone up in Canada. We have seen an increase in the price of energy in this country, the gasoline tax, the excise tax, the move toward the world level in the price of fuel in Canada. We have also seen the increase in unemployment insurance premiums.

This all comes from a political party whose members said in my riding and other ridings across the country that, if elected,

The Address—Mr. Nystrom

there would not be a cut-back in services; if elected they would not concentrate on the deficit because jobs are number one; if elected they would not increase the taxes on ordinary Canadians; in fact, if elected, there would be a minimum tax which rich people would have to pay so that they would not get away with all of the loopholes we have in our tax system today. After only two months, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a cut-back in services of over \$4 billion. I am told by economists that as many as 100,000 people could lose their jobs because of those cut-backs in all of the government departments across Canada. In fact, if one looks at agriculture alone, one sees a \$62 million cut-back. And it is not just Canagrex. There is a \$32 million cut-back on extra fees which a farmer is now going to have to pay for the services the farmer needs on his farm.

There are millions of dollars cut back in funding for rail lines, branch lines and rehabilitation. In my riding, Mr. Speaker, there are rail lines which need to be rehabilitated. I recall a certain all-candidates meeting in my riding when the Conservative candidate could not show up because he was out with the now Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) looking at a rail line in my riding which goes from Kelvington to Lintlaw to Preeceville, and they made a promise that they would keep the rail line, which those nasty Liberals would not; that there was not enough funding, and that was true.

[Translation]

That is the truth of the matter, Sir.

[English]

Here is the Conservative Party saying: "You elect us and we will keep that rail line". But what has it done? If one goes to the Government's information books distributed last night, one finds it cut off tens of millions of dollars for branch line rehabilitation. It is one thing to promise the people of Canada and not deliver. But here we have the Party across the way promising the people of Canada one thing and delivering something else.

It was the now Leader of the Opposition of the Liberal Party who talked a lot about the deficit being too high in this country and that we had to cut back on the debt. I notice the present Prime Minister is now quoting him day in and day out. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservative Party is now implementing the program of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner). No wonder the people of this country are becoming increasingly cynical of politics and politicians when we see that kind of breach of promise within 60 days of the September 4 election campaign.

[Translation]

As I said, Mr. Speaker, we now have a national consensus in this country. It is a national consensus and unemployment is the first priority for the government and the country. Canadians will get to work and build a new country. As the Canadian bishops pointed out nearly two years ago in January 1983 in a document that is now very well known throughout Canada, the most urgent issue facing us is setting up a program to fight unemployment which is already too high in Canada, and we