

figure of \$4 billion was given by the Prime Minister toward the end of the election campaign. I suggest it is another sign of deceit for the Government to come before the House and the Canadian people and say that it discovered that the cupboard was bare. They knew the facts when they made their promises.

During the election campaign the Conservatives made promises in three categories. They made promises for change. I attended some five all-candidates' debates with my Conservative opponent and tried to pin him down on what he meant by change. Did he mean a return to the type of Toryism that we saw for a whole summer when the Conservative Party fought against the new Canadian flag, or when they fought against the Canadian Constitution and the entrenchment of the Charter of Rights? Does he mean a return to the time when they fought against medicare and the initial implementation of other programs? By change, did he mean a change to the past, to that kind of Conservatism?

We did not know what was meant until the financial statement last Thursday. We now know that it is a change to the Arthur Meighen Toryism of the 1920s, to the dismantlement bit by bit of the institutions that have been built up in this country. Although the Government announced \$4.2 billion in cuts, it says that more are coming in the spring. We have finally discovered what sort of changes the Conservatives had in mind.

The Conservatives also promised that thousands of jobs would appear immediately after the election. We are now told that they do not have a specific plan at the moment for creating those jobs and that it must be developed in consultation with the provinces, trade unions and business. While that is understandable, why did they not say that before the election? At that time they gave the impression that they already had a plan for job creation. It is now apparent that they had no plan or blueprint for job creation, just a pious hope. Many people would like to see more jobs. I hope the Government is successful in devising a plan through consultation, and members of the Opposition will help in devising that plan.

● (1230)

I hope that in these task forces, special committees and commissions we will have as much input, since we are elected Members of Parliament, as all other Members. They should be listened to but so should we.

The Conservatives made 338 promises which entail specific spending. In other words, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint Maurice (Mr. Chrétien), often says, they were, unlike him, speaking out of both sides of their mouths at once. The Tories were going to cut the deficit and spend, by admission of the Prime Minister, approximately \$4 billion on those promises.

With respect to the financial statement of the other evening, a previous debater from the Conservative Party said that the Government would not cut the deficit on the backs of the poor, just as we had said. We said we were interested in curtailment of the deficit and doing something about it—

*The Address—Mr. Allmand*

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Allmand:** It is on the record. As a matter of fact, we were accused just a minute ago of being in favour of that. We are in favour of that, Mr. Speaker, but not in the way the Tories have set out. I have forgotten which Hon. Member opposite repeated a minute ago that he did not want to cut the deficit on the backs of the poor or the unfortunate. When I asked him about the \$9.6 million cut in social housing—and for anyone who does not know about social housing, it is housing for senior citizens, for our lower income families, for one-parent families, for mothers who have been abandoned and so on—what did we hear? How does the Hon. Member explain it? Certainly those are the unfortunate in our society. The Hon. Member said he would not support cuts that hurt them, but that procedure will hurt them.

Let us look at some of these cuts. I would like to have an explanation at some stage as to how these cuts will not hurt someone. Even the CBC has a \$75 million cut. One might say that we do not really need the CBC that much. But I do not know how one can cut \$75 million from the CBC budget without cutting jobs. I wonder if the Tories really believe that people who will be cut by the CBC will be picked up by the CTV network. That is a pious wish that they will be picked up by the CTV.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Allmand:** I have a feeling, Mr. Speaker, that what will happen is what happened when the Avro Arrow was cut. A lot of the technicians and a lot of the people from the CBC will go south of the border and will end up working for the ABC, NBC and CBS networks. That will be most unfortunate. The cultural agencies are also involved. We have the National Film Board, the National Arts Centre and the Canada Council. There are jobs in all those entities. People work in arts and culture.

I got a kick out of the Prime Minister during the leadership campaign. He continually referred to those who work in the "real world". His impression was that if you work in the private sector you were in the real world, but those in the public sector like, I suppose, teachers, nurses, and policemen were not in the "real world". They were in some make believe world. Their work was not as valuable as those who worked, let us say, at manufacturing cigarettes or hula hoops. Because they worked in the private sector, their work was real; but for those who work in the public sector as teachers, nurses, correctional officers and so on, their work was unreal. Then he stopped saying this. I guess somebody in his office told him to stop using that expression. However, his basic philosophy that was committed to that kind of thinking carried on because we saw it expressed in the financial document of the other night.

Let me continue with the cuts. I have mentioned social housing, which is \$9.6 million. The program for residential rehabilitation assistance is cut \$29.4 million. In the document we find the statement: "The planned level of activity will be reduced by 25 per cent". I do not know how many Members