

*Government Orders*

stipulation that "the assumption of responsibility by the Dominion for the relief of aid of unemployed employables would entail complete financial responsibility".

That is the recommendation that was made and accepted by the Mackenzie King government in August when Royal Assent was given to the bill amending the Constitution to transfer the unemployment insurance programs to the federal government. That was the commitment that was made by the then Liberal government and today we have a Tory government here in Ottawa that is renegeing on the entire deal and renegeing on the very Constitution of this country. It is transferring all those expenditures for the UIC fund over to the individuals and private enterprise. The Tories are the great promoters of private enterprise.

Let us talk about broken promises. I do not want to spend too much time on that because I would be here all day. The Prime Minister is on record as saying he would not pay off the deficit by attacking social programs. The Prime Minister and the former Minister of National Health and Welfare promised to maintain over-all social spending by not using social program funds to reduce the deficit, and promised they would maintain the universality of programs for seniors and families. Such promises are now a thing of the past. Universality, as a key principle of government, is dead.

The Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister called the Leader of the Opposition, the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, the leader of the Liberal party, a liar during the last election campaign for saying that Canada's social and regional development programs would be eroded after the election. Since the election the government has done the following: clawed back seniors old age pensions and family allowances, cut VIA Rail which is a regional development tool, withdrawn from the unemployment insurance program and cut benefits, and scrapped its promised child care program. Do you remember how carefully it fine tuned that child care program that it was going to bring forward in this Parliament? It fine tuned it until the election was over and then dropped it like a hot potato. The government cut transfer payments to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education by \$7.464 billion over the next five years.

We all know that famous quote of the Prime Minister: "Pensions are a sacred trust never to be tampered with". Since then he has attempted to deindex old age pensions

and he is now trying to claw back senior citizens' pensions.

I want this quote to be very carefully attributed: "We would cut spending. We would not raise taxes. Tax levels in Canada are already too high". Now, who do you suppose said that? That was stated by the Minister of Finance on March 6, 1984. What a transition. Since 1984 taxes have been increased 31 times. That is not counting the pending GST.

Federal tax revenues have increased by \$48 billion since 1984. But the Minister of Finance said he was not going to raise taxes. He was going to cut the deficit by cutting government programs. It was simple back then in 1984. After all these measures the deficit is still out of control. You know that song, where has all the money gone?

I think this is a fine tribute to the judgment of the present Minister of Finance. On May 23, 1985, he stated the following: "Our actions will directly reduce the annual deficit at the end of the decade by more than \$20 billion, down to \$18 billion". We are now at the end of the decade and his own finance department has informed us that the deficit stands at \$30.5 billion. Not bad for the Minister of Finance. He only missed his target by \$12.5 billion.

He went on to say: "Our challenge in 1984 was to restore fiscal stability and rebuild credibility in the management of government finances. The only way to do that was to set out a medium term fiscal plan with sustained deficit reduction and then hold to that plan". This is exactly what he did. I suppose Ronald Reagan or Margaret Thatcher could easily deliver the same statement. But the fact is he has held to this great plan. What are the results? His deficit has grown larger in the last three years alone.

Let me cite the following: "It took over one hundred years; from Sir John A. Macdonald to Lester B. Pearson, to accumulate a federal debt of \$18 billion," including two world wars that had to be paid for. "By next April that debt will have reached \$180 billion. Despite a decade of rhetoric about fiscal responsibility, this government now borrows over \$20 billion a year just to meet its interest payments".

That is what the Prime Minister said on March 22, 1984. He said it took over one hundred years, from Sir John A. Macdonald to Lester B. Pearson, to accumulate a federal debt of \$18 billion. He has outdone all of them. In the last five years he can boast that he has raised the