

The Budget—Mr. Rodriguez

• (1730)

Mr. Speaker, I thought about a theme for my contribution to this debate, and I have taken the theme of a question: On which side is this Government? To whom is this Government, under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), accountable? Let me just draw a picture. We all have this very vivid picture of Brian Mulroney as a boy growing up in Baie Comeau. We all remember him. He sang for his breakfast. He sang for the bosses of the Iron Ore Company of Canada from Chicago. He sang for them and he got \$50 American. That was big money in those days. Not so long ago, four years ago, he sang for his political boss. He sang in Quebec City for Ronald Reagan, he sang *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

He has been singing his whole life for somebody else, for the people who pull his chain, the same corporate big-wigs that during the last election put up \$2 million plus to advertise to Canadians for the re-election of the Mulroney Government, the same gang. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that he who pays the piper calls the tune. They have called the tune. They have paid the piper, and now what are they doing? They have grabbed the pipe, and they are not only paying, they are playing the tune. There he is coming out of his basket, serpentine, sinuous and seductive. He is coming out of his basket and he is dancing to the tune. Whose tune is he dancing to? It is the same boys to whom he went for a very private and very secretive dinner meeting in Toronto one week before the Budget came down. Yes, he went to a private meeting in Toronto, possibly in the back rooms of Winston's. Now, who was the host of that secret meeting?

An Hon. Member: John Turner?

Mr. Rodriguez: No, not John—I do not say the J.C. word here. It was Tony Fell of Dominion Securities. He was the host. Who were among the guests? Hal Jackman from National Trust. How about this one—Alf Powis from Noranda? How about Bob Martin from Consumers Gas, and my friend Bill James from Falconbridge, and Doug Creighton from *The Toronto Sun*, *The Toronto Star*, et cetera, Bob Osborne from MacLean Hunter, and who of all people, Dave Culver flew all the way from Montreal, the same person who headed up that campaign to get the Tories re-elected. These are the real boys. So what were the boys saying? Mr. Speaker, there he was having a nice, quiet, cosy supper before the

Budget came down, presumably assuring them that there is nothing in that Budget that was really going to touch them, that everything was safe.

Did the Prime Minister meet with a single mother who is looking for child care for her children and cannot get it? Did he meet with a single mother? He did not fly to the Toronto to meet with the real people. Did he fly to meet with any family earning about \$30,000 a year in Metro-Toronto, a family who is trying to keep a roof over their heads and food in their cupboards? Did he meet with anybody like that? You bet your bottom dollar, he did not. Did he meet with people from Summerside to explain how he was going to shaft them? Not on your bottom dollar he did not. Did he meet with the unemployed from Belle Island? No, Mr. Speaker, not at all. I ask, whose side is this Government on? I painted the picture of Brian the snake coming out of the basket, and people laughed. But it is as true as I am standing here that those who paid for the Government's re-election are now in fact calling the tune.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I have an image of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). I do not know if many Members around here know it, but his favourite sport is squash. I have this image, and it keeps recurring again and again in my mind of the Finance Minister playing squash with John Crowe, the Governor of the Bank of Canada. I have this image of the ball being the unemployed in this country, the low-income Canadians, middle-income Canadians, Canadians who cannot afford homes. I think of the poor children of the world, and as the Finance Minister whacks the ball with a right forehand against the front wall, the ball ricochets off the back wall, John Crowe catches it with his high interest rates, and he whacks it up against the side wall, and the big, almighty, powerful but with a lot of integrity and courage and competence, he catches with his backhand and flips them so carelessly against the wall and smashes that ball, Mr. Speaker, pulverizes the ball, and they are playing with a blue ball, and he pulverizes the ball. That is the image that I have of these people who are responsible for fiscal and monetary policy in this country.

One has a Budget that in fact sticks it to them on a fiscal level, and the other one has the high interest rates and is sticking it to them on a monetary level. There they are like a squash ball pulverized between these two big, tough, powerful squash players.