

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I do not want to accuse the hon. member for Prince Albert of shedding crocodile tears. I am sure he meant every word he said. He cried about the plight of the home owner who is plagued with high interest rates and property taxes. I want to remind him that it is his party that is taking part in the filibuster to deny that same home owner the property tax credit plan.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): He talked about the young couple he knew who had three children and were concerned about being able to keep their home. I remind him that there are constituencies in this country filled with people who want to keep their own homes. There are constituencies represented by members in this House, including members on the other side, who would like to have a home of their own. Because of their filibuster, these people will not have the advantage of Bill C-20. I want to serve notice now in this House of Commons that, given the opportunity over the course of the next week, the people of Canada are going to get that bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I have listened to the speeches of members of this House, talking about the great things they would do, particularly the Liberal party, for Canada. I have listened to them talking about the great things they would do if they were in office, the great things the Liberal party could do for Canada. Mr. Speaker, the party is so bereft of good fortune, good ideas and good principles that even the Crown Prince would not stand for its leadership!

● (2040)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I see the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Phillips) is in his place—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott, Victoria-Haliburton): Order. There is a great deal of noise in the chamber. I think the House and the Chair would be better served if we could allow the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Baker) to continue his speech with fewer interruptions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was coming to the hon. member for Vancouver Centre who made more press by saying he was not going to run for the leadership than anyone else. Mr. Speaker, the press welcomes a wise man! The party over there promised duty-free shops, and instead we got Sky Shops.

An hon. Member: Your first campaign speech!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I beg your pardon. The hon. member is new to this House and he can shout all he wishes. But I should like to listen to him if he gets a chance to speak in the debate, and perhaps it might be a good thing if he listened

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to what the Speaker said a few moments ago. The party over there is very fond of saying that the government under the present Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) has not kept any of its promises. Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with this budget in terms of the promises this party has kept.

An hon. Member: Then your speech will be short.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): We made a number of tax-related commitments in the course of the election campaign. Those commitments included long-term tax contracts for firms investing in eastern Canada. The budget delivered on that promise. We indicated in the course of the campaign that we would make substantial capital gains tax relief available to farmers. The budget has delivered on that promise. We said we would give tax incentives to encourage the production in Canada of new vessels for the Atlantic fishery. The budget has delivered on that promise.

We said we wanted to deliver on another promise related to the idea that spouses who work legitimately in the businesses of their husbands are not chattels but are entitled to be treated as persons. We have delivered on that promise. We said we would begin to reduce the size of the federal deficit and of the federal cash requirement, and last night the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) began the delivery of that promise. We said there would be a marked improvement in the employment tax credit program so that we could begin to employ more young Canadians, and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Atkey), following upon the Minister of Finance, has delivered on that promise.

We said as well that it was a good idea for Canadians to invest in their own society, in their own businesses and in their own country, and the budget produced tax measures to encourage investment in the common stock of Canadian corporations. We said it was high time we were honest with Canadians with respect to the prospects for the future, remembering that the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien), when he was minister of finance, gave forecasts which only a fool would believe. We said it was time there was a five-year fiscal forecast of expected expenditures and revenues and that it was time to reduce budget secrecy. And we have delivered on that promise.

Mr. Speaker, we sat on the side of the House for some time and watched the government wallow in rhetoric for 16 years as they promised energy self-sufficiency for Canada—and failed to deliver. Sir, the tax measures and other measures in this budget are designed to implement the promise we made to Canadians that we would move toward energy self-sufficiency by 1990, and we intend to deliver that promise.

Once in a while I listen to the NDP. Their favourite word is “concern”. They are concerned about this, they are concerned about that. The only thing they are not concerned about is consistency!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!