

Government Orders

has never been out by as much as \$1 billion. When the hon. member was giving those numbers, I thought he might have been giving us something else.

When talking about \$38 billion deficits and the Liberal party, they did not even include the deficit in the UIC account. That is \$10 billion. They kind of shoved it under the desk somewhere. "Let's not include that in the national debt and in the deficit. We have separate accounting for that one." It is only when this government came clean and said to Canadians in 1984: "We are not going to kid you about the situation in the economy. We are going to lay it all on the table."

We keep dragging these things out. Every time we open another closet, more ghosts jump out, we see more bills left over from the Liberal government. But we have it on track. We turned it around since 1987. We are now running surpluses in our program budget. It is all on the table. It is all up front for people to see. Canadians know about the economic situation in this country. They know it is not easy, but they know we have taken the tough decisions. We are taking the proper direction to get over this mountain of debt and see the future of a prosperous, economic Canada.

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, I am in a jolly good mood after listening to all the blarney that I just heard from my hon. colleague from Calgary Southeast.

As I said earlier, I flew here today and I was a little cranky when I got here. After listening to the world according to the member for Calgary Southeast, I find that there is still some pleasure in stretching the facts and selective memory and life. It is called blarney.

I rise today to participate in this debate on the government borrowing bill, Bill C-65, in which the government is attempting to borrow untold billions of dollars to finance its misdirected economic policies. The hon. member from Calgary Southeast and his colleagues read very well from the notes given to them by the propaganda section of the Department of Finance, but as hard as they try, Canadians do not appear to be listening. If Canadians were listening and buying the drivel that is coming from the government benches opposite, I think the member's party would be a little better than 15 per cent in the polls. I should not have to tell that to the hon.

member—especially one who comes from Calgary, that bastion of Torydom.

I am sure everybody realizes that it used to be a given that Alberta always would elect Conservatives, that Alberta was Tory-Tory land. Well, I can tell you that because of this government's economic agenda things have changed, even in Tory Alberta.

Did I just hear the Minister of Transport say, "Right on"? I think he did. Even in Conservative Alberta, Toryism is a bad word. It is a word that is no longer said without a few expletive deletives—which are unparliamentary and therefore I cannot put them on the record of this place. But if there are a few Conservative members here who have not heard what they are being called in that province I will gladly see them outside the Chamber and let them know just what they are—unless, of course, their delicate ears can't take it.

We have just gone through six years of a Tory agenda. It has been an agenda of deceit and mismanagement. The Conservative party came into power in 1984 after a world-wide recession. Now the hon. members on the other side do not want to admit that, but it was a world-wide economic recession. They came in at the tail end when the recovery was beginning. The framework was already in place for economic recovery, thank goodness. We did not have people starving in the streets because Liberal economic and social policies ensured that the safety nets were there to catch Canadians. To listen to some of the members opposite, they would have preferred it if those people had starved in the streets. They would have preferred it if the people who lost their jobs during the world-wide economic recession somehow managed to get their keep in the garbage dumps or begging from the affluent on Bay Street.

Well, Liberal policies were quite different. The deficit increased, but it did so because Liberal social programs worked. And, Mr. Speaker, I for one am not about to sit down and apologize to that group opposite for saving the livelihood and future of many Canadians during that period of time.

But in 1984 these guys and gals came forward and said: "We've got a better way. Elect us and life is going to be rosy. We are going to create so much wealth across this country. We are going to ensure that the Liberal social policies and programs are maintained. We are going to