

the people of Canada have indicated that we have similarly lost faith in our Prime Minister and the government of the Prime Minister.

• (1540)

Let us continue for a moment and simply reflect from today's newspaper. A massive poll conducted by Angus-Reid and Southam News points out that our Prime Minister is the most unpopular Prime Minister in Canadian history. As a matter of fact, in the last number of hours, at the major meetings in Europe, we have noticed that no one wanted to meet with the Prime Minister. He had asked to meet with many heads of state and virtually no one wanted to meet with him. Most cancelled any plans that had been set up. Even overseas, he appears to have lost the confidence of world leadership.

The polls also tell us that this is the most unpopular government in Canadian history. No government has been so low in public esteem in the entire history of our land. According to today's poll results, seven out of ten Canadians could not think of a single thing that this government has done since the last federal elections, not a single positive thing.

Mr. Fulton: Can you think of anything?

Mr. Riis: My colleague from Skeena asks if I can think of anything. Unfortunately, I say with a heavy heart, that I cannot. I cannot think of a single, positive thing that this government has done to help the people of Canada.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Riis: The Tories say that the free trade deal was a great accomplishment. When the people of Canada were asked if they agreed, 92 per cent disagreed with that comment. Only 8 per cent of Canadians felt that the free trade agreement was good for the country and 92 per cent disagreed.

The Conservatives sometimes say that tax reform was a good idea. Ninety-five per cent of Canadians disagreed with that position. Only 5 per cent of Canadians think that tax reform has been a positive gesture.

Government Orders

In terms of deficit reduction, our Prime Minister goes on at some length about the great successes in reducing the deficit. Ninety-five per cent of Canadians disagree with him. They say that the debt of the country has never been greater and that deficit simply does not come down in any significant real way.

Then there is the environment. All of a sudden the entire cabinet is turning green before us. They are saying we are going to take major steps in terms of environmental issues. Ninety-eight per cent of Canadians disagree. Only 2 per cent of Canadians feel that the government is serious in terms of the environmental issues confronting the country.

Jobs, jobs, jobs. Oh, how we remember that slogan in the last federal campaign. How many Canadians feel that the government has actually performed in creating real jobs? Two per cent. Ninety-eight per cent of Canadians feel that the government's record is abysmal and that it is woefully inadequate. It has, if you like, ignored the reality. Even the free trade agreement has resulted in 165,000 jobs being abandoned in this country on a permanent basis.

Then there is leadership, and that is what it is all about. The Prime Minister of Canada is attempting to present leadership to our country at a difficult time. When one looks at how people feel about the leadership that this Prime Minister provides, when one looks to see what the vision is of this particular Prime Minister, and when one considers the people's trust and confidence in this Prime Minister, I am afraid to say that the poll results this morning state that 99 per cent of Canadians have lost faith in this Prime Minister. Only 1 per cent of Canadians had the courage to say that they thought the Prime Minister was doing a good job when it came to leadership. That 1 per cent is probably a statistical error. I would suspect, in reality, that 100 per cent would say that this Prime Minister has no vision of the future and, as a result, he has been conducting a process of dismantling our country.

We have heard the Prime Minister say as he travels about the country in an attempt to carry on a propaganda message that, indeed, he is trying to make good, tough decisions. He claims that his government has made tough and hard decisions. Tough and hard decisions do