

*The Address—Mr. Frith*

Government would take my advice and introduce this legislation, rather than relying on its consultative process with the provinces concerned.

Finally, I would like to touch upon another promise made during the election campaign. This is a promise to which the Opposition will return time and time again. That comment will not go away and will not cease to reflect upon the Conservative Party and its Leader. The Prime Minister campaigned by saying that once he was elected, Canadians would see tens upon tens of thousands of jobs created just as quickly as a new Government could be sworn in. That was the commitment that was made to the Canadian public.

We find in the economic statement that, rather than having job creation as a priority of this Government, there is a warning that unemployment benefits may be cut back just when they are needed the most. Notice is given that the Summer Canada Works Program for students will be eliminated. Spending cut-backs are to be made in the name of deficit reduction. I do not remember Hon. Members campaigning on the promise of reducing the deficit. However, all this will result in a net loss of 45,000 jobs a year. That is 150,000 jobs over three years. That is not job creation, Mr. Speaker. That is cuts in employment.

I would like to suggest that members of the Conservative Government and the Prime Minister should remind themselves that the trust given to them by the Canadian public on September 4 involved the belief that the Conservative Government would live up to its campaign promises of the summer of 1984 rather than embark on a hidden Tory agenda that will destroy the social fabric of our country.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I was a little surprised to hear the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) speak of broken promises. I really wondered how he had the gall to do it. Does he recall that in 1979, the Liberal Party campaigned on the promise that it would not charge taxes on gas of more than 18 cents a gallon? After the Liberal Party got into power, it increased those taxes several times that amount. Is that the kind of promise to which the Hon. Member is referring? If so, his Party is expert at that.

Second, the Hon. Member indicated that we had not mentioned some items. Did Liberal Members mention to the people of Canada that the Government would change the Constitution? Did they tell the people of Canada they would not put property rights in the Constitution? Did they tell the people of Canada they would bring in the National Energy Program, a program that would practically destroy the industry of western Canada? No, they did not tell the Canadian people about any of these things. Perhaps the Hon. Member should take a look inward before he starts to tell us how to do things.

**Mr. Frith:** Mr. Speaker, I referred very early on in my speech to the degree of cynicism felt and the contempt in which a great many politicians are held by the Canadian public today. I said that I think that a great deal of that cynicism is generated by the fact that governments get elected

on a given set of promises and then do not deliver those promises to the Canadian people. That is where the cynicism is generated. I will not deal with the specifics of the questions of the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), but I will say that in some cases he is quite correct. Promises were made in the 1979-80 election which were not kept by the Liberal Party. As a word of warning, I would tell the Hon. Member that we paid the price in 1984 for failing to keep those promises, and I am therefore suggesting that he should keep his side honest, because I will remind him of the 338 promises that that Government has made. As I have outlined in my speech this afternoon, if the Government breaks its promises, I wish it the same election results in 1988 as we received this year.

● (1700)

**Mr. Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on the speech made by the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith). He mentioned hidden agendas, lack of trust and cynicism. I am somewhat perplexed by his comments inasmuch as the Progressive Conservative Party has been saying, not only during the past election campaign, but for many, many years, that the rising national debt is of the utmost importance and must be solved. The Conservative Party has said that in order to get the economy back on the rails, the problem must be addressed. I have said it in my riding, the Hon. Member for Welland (Mr. Pietz) echoed that, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) was in our areas several times to tell the people that it would be the first priority of a Conservative government. I am very pleased that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Right Hon. Prime Minister have chosen to keep the promises that they made, and the promises that we as private Members made, to make this number one on the agenda.

**Mr. Frith:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct that comment. As a Party, the Government made a promise to the electorate this past summer. Following the leaders' debate, I took part in a discussion on *The Journal*. On that program I represented the Liberal Party. The Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Mrs. Mitchell) represented the NDP and the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) represented the Conservative Party. During that discussion, the Conservatives promised that universality was a sacred trust not to be tampered with. Canadians were promised that additional dollars would be put into the medicare system and that the concept of universality would not be tampered with. That was the trust that was given to the Government on September 4. When an agenda for action was introduced, with the parameters which I have outlined in my speech, that will affect Canadians down to the level of those families whose income is \$20,000 a year, I suggest that the Government did not have that mandate given to it on September 4. That will be where we will draw our line as an Opposition—the definition of the mandate. There are 211 Conservative Members of Parliament. They were given a mandate to do certain things. I will remind them every time they break and tamper with the trust which was given to them on September 4. We in the Liberal Party will be questioning