

*Supply*

trying to influence her decision accordingly. I do not think that will enable everyone who is available and able to work on federal programs because, as matters stand, if you have not worked in the previous two years, you are not eligible for a referral. If you did not run out of unemployment insurance, you are not eligible for a referral, and if you worked one week in the previous eight weeks, you are not eligible for a referral. The Minister tabled that document in the House two weeks ago and then, in response to the royal commission report, said that she would see what could be done within her Department, not knowing that two weeks previously she had tabled guidelines which violated that very report.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, unless there is openness, public servants will not know the truth. Public servants will not discover the grave error which was made in policy and in the carrying out of that policy within the Department. The Minister of Employment and Immigration stood in the House the other day and said that they will wait until the fishing season closes before considering whether to assist the fishermen in eastern Canada. There was snow on the ground at that point. There were no boats in the water and there was no fishing activity. That night, in response to follow-up question on the Late Show, the Parliamentary Secretary said that there was no special program instituted last year by the former Liberal government. Mr. Speaker, there was a special program but the Parliamentary Secretary was acting on information which he received typed up by a public servant who obviously did not know the difference.

The Minister should be telling public servants who advise the Minister on policy and communicate with Members of Parliament to speak to every Member of Parliament and everyone on the street as openly as possible in order to get all the information. In that way the Government would not continue to make the tragic errors it has made since it took power. The only way to stop those tragic decisions is to have a more open government, as was professed by the Progressive Conservative Party during the campaign. My remarks today apply to any government that is in power. We must have openness or we will have policies which are discriminatory toward the people and do not serve the public good.

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, people in the Gallery or Members of the House of Commons who have been here for some years may have the feeling of having fallen through the looking glass. Hon. Members opposite have for years run the tightest ship in terms of secrecy. They are now becoming born-again advocates of open government.

I have served for 12 years as a Member in the House, Mr. Speaker. We, as members of the Opposition, attempted to get factual information from the Government about its activities. Year after year we encountered stonewalling on the part of the Liberal government, attempts to cover up information, systematic abuse of the roles of public servants, and the massive expenditure of public funds for partisan purposes through extremely large advertising campaigns financed by the taxpayers of Canada.

In a few minutes we will be having a vote on the motion of non-confidence which has been moved by the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Turner). Many of the people who will be voting to condemn the Government on its policies of openness are the very same people—

**Mr. Boudria:** And rightly so.

**Mr. Beatty:** The Hon. Member says "rightly so". Mr. Speaker, we are delighted to hear from Hon. Members at any time when they criticize Government policies, if they want us to be more open. However, I think the Hon. Member has an obligation to speak to his colleagues who will be rising to vote. He should ask them whether they can, in conscience, vote in the way in which they will after their experience in the last several years. It was the Liberal government that imposed an Order in Council making it an offence to talk about the uranium cartel. That was a massive cover-up attempting to hide an international conspiracy which was designed to drive up energy prices for consumers in Canada. That government passed a gag order, an Order in Council, which made it an offence for Canadians even to refer to that information.

When we were debating the Constitution, the Liberal Government used the Canadian Unity Information Office, a massive propaganda arm of the federal government paid for with federal tax dollars. They commissioned a large number of public opinion surveys. These were the people, Mr. Speaker, who classified public opinion surveys and refused to release information disclosed in the public opinion surveys to Members of Parliament. To this day the Liberals refuse to release that information, although the surveys are years old.

The Liberal government was responsible for an explosion in publicly funded government advertising designed, not to provide factual information to Canadians, but to provide puffery which was to polish the image of the Liberal Party. Canadians rejected that. They said that something was wrong when a government was incapable of differentiating between the national interest and the partisan interests of one political Party in power. They could not condone the kind of waste of money which took place through the Canadian Unity Information Office. That is why one of the first actions of our Government was to scrap CUIO. It was a message that we would not allow that sort of abuse to take place in the future.

● (1730)

It was the very same Liberals, who will be voting to condemn our Government for its policy on openness, who abused the roles of public servants.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Nonsense!

**Mr. Beatty:** The Liberal Whip, the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), sat on this side of the House this spring while I, as the PC spokesman on Revenue Canada, asked for information from the Minister, Mr. Bussi eres. He sat there silently while, day after day, Mr. Bussi eres either gave false information or simply stonewalled. He sat there without a murmur of protest when Mr. Bussi eres sent out a directive to