

*Oral Questions*

We could talk of bad faith. The question is, does it lie with the ambassador or with the minister.

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[English]

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

**Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, will history repeat itself? Will the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce be removed from his position as the chair of the justice standing committee? Will the cowardly and shameful exercise of power be displayed one more time?

The anticipated removal of the chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs will be another example of the broken promises of the government to allow for more free votes in the House of Commons. It will be a blatant demonstration of this government's disregard for the principles of democracy.

I do not share the hon. member's political ideologies. However he has earned my respect as chairman of the justice committee as he has displayed an enormous amount of fairness and skill in his duties, particularly during the proceedings on the gun control bill.

Such an act will result in the justice committee losing a skilled and experienced chairman, a loss that will be greatly felt by members who sit on my side of the table and all members of the justice committee.

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**ONTARIO ELECTION**

**Mrs. Sue Barnes (London West, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the people of Ontario are getting wise to the reality of Mike Harris' ultra conservative policy. His pie in the sky promises of a 30 per cent income tax cut are an insult to the intelligence of the people of this province. How does he propose to juggle a massive tax cut and balance the budget without slashing essential services? He does not.

Mike Harris is deceiving the people of Ontario, shamelessly exploiting the discontent brought about by five years of NDP government. He is using it as a pretext to dismantle progressive and essential programs that the Liberals across this country have helped establish.

There is only one real choice for the voters in Ontario. Lyn McLeod has demonstrated her commitment to the people of Ontario by proposing realistic and workable proposals for change, realistic tax cuts to stimulate job creation, a balanced budget in four years, a firm commitment to cut \$3.5 billion from government spending while maintaining funding for education and health.

**ONTARIO ELECTION**

**Mr. Andy Mitchell (Parry Sound—Muskoka, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Ontario goes to the polls to elect a new government.

The Liberals have promised not to increase taxes but to balance the provincial budget within four years. They have presented a responsible and prudent plan that recognizes both the government's fiscal responsibility and its social responsibility not to place the burden of reducing the deficit on the backs of the least advantaged in society.

• (1415)

It is one thing to hold the line on personal tax increases. It is irresponsible to substantially cut them when facing a large deficit. Ronald Reagan showed us in 1981 what happens when taxes are cut without a sound economic plan. The rich get richer, the debts get larger, and the middle class becomes poorer.

The people of Ontario know that it will require leadership and not gimmicks to guide the province. Lyn McLeod and the Liberals will provide that leadership.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[Translation]

**CRTC**

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday CRTC chairman Keith Spicer was very critical of the directives the federal government is about to approve with respect to direct to home satellite television services. He referred to these directives as illegal and condemned their unprecedented retroactive effect as well as their incredibly detailed content. Mr. Spicer said that government intervention undermined the independence and integrity of the CRTC and could lead to political interference with its operations.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Considering that yesterday, Mr. Spicer felt it was necessary to remind us that the government's authority with respect to communications did not extend to giving preferential treatment to certain friends, would the Prime Minister agree that these statements by the CRTC chairman cast doubts on the government's integrity in the case of DTH satellite television services?

[English]

**Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, let us be very clear about what has happened here. The government has pursued a process which is set out very clearly in the Broadcasting Act. We have tabled a direction in Parliament.