

They fall off on either one side or the other. The disparity between the extremes is getting bigger.

Let us look at the numbers. After five Conservative Budgets, a person earning \$100,000 pays 8 per cent more in taxes. The guys and gals earning \$30,000 will have to pay 60 per cent more in taxes. I ask the Hon. Member to try to explain that to Canadians. He should try to sell it. Canadians know an unfair tax system and an unfair Budget. I would ask the Hon. Member to address that unbalanced, unfair and inequitable situation that the Government has created rather than masquerade as some political Robin Hood which the Government is not.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fontaine:** Mr. Speaker, I will try to summarize the issue. I am not sure whether he knows exactly what was his question. I think I heard him say that my Government was abandoning the poor, the sick and the aged. With the Socialists' assistance, the previous Liberal Government had systematically abandoned future generations of Canadians leaving them to pay the debts incurred by this generation and thus finding a way to stay in power longer. Mr. Speaker, these are the people who did abandon generations. We, on the contrary, are trying to assume our responsibilities. I must emphasize the fact that ever since we came to power, we have created jobs for over a million Canadians to help us develop this country. Far from abandoning them, we are taking them along. You had abandoned them! We have put an end to this practice. Now, all Canadians must strive to increase the collective wealth to ensure the availability of our social programs for the aged, the sick and the young.

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, I spent last weekend in the riding represented by the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) to witness the launching of the new *Joseph and Clara Smallwood* ship.

[English]

During my brief visit to his riding, I got the impression that the Hon. Member was a reasonable fellow. I was a little taken aback today when I realized that he was defending this foul Budget without equivocation.

Is the Hon. Member not really bothered by the manifest duplicity of this Budget? Last fall the spokespersons for his Party were saying the exact opposite. They were saying that everything is coming up roses, that

there is no problem. They could not pronounce the word "deficit". They never mentioned it at any time.

**Mr. Blais:** False.

**Mr. Simmons:** He is awake. Welcome. We are here every day at this time. Come in more often.

I understand that we have hit a nerve. Last fall during the election campaign, there was not a word about the deficit. Everything was coming up roses. Things would be magnificent. We would all have two cars in every garage.

Now we are told what a terrible time it is and how terrible the Liberals were before 1984. Suppose we were to buy the thesis that everything was terrible before 1984, why has it taken almost five years for the people on that side of the House to discover that there is a problem? Last fall they did not know there was a problem. Is the Hon. Member not a bit bothered by this duplicity, this basic dishonesty that last fall we were told one thing and now we are being told something very different? They both cannot be right. They are mutually exclusive. Which is right, what we were told last fall or what we are being told now?

[Translation]

**Mr. Fontaine:** In 1984 and even in 1983 as we were striving to get rid of this Government, Mr. Speaker, we had exactly the same platform as today. We were as aware then as we are now that before giving money to the needy, we had to earn it. That is the difference between the Liberal Party which was led by a Socialist—a Socialist had become the Leader of the Liberal Party. First he got his membership card from the NDP, but he switched to the other side because he was a political opportunist.

These people were living off other people's money. The difference with us is that we know we must create wealth before sharing it. This is still our position. We have been on this track since 1984 and we shall keep on going down the path already staked out four years from now, and after we have again been re-elected, we will still continue in that direction, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I am always delighted to follow the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine). Everyone has now heard from the extreme right, the voice of unreasonableness. Now we get to hear the voice of reason, of moderation and of concern.