

Government Orders

think that Canadians believe that. They have seen tough times.

I have learned something in my short years in politics and in Parliament, Mr. Speaker. There is a fundamental rule in government. If the solution is easy, usually it is the wrong one. If it is a difficult decision, then you need courage, and that is probably the right one. Most of the time it works. These people on the other side, they like the easy stuff.

An hon. member: No courage.

Mr. Valcourt: Of course, because they do not have any courage. We have just experienced 20 years of that. They took a country without a debt and in 15 years drove the debt to \$200 billion. Now, they have the gall—and the NDP too, the member from Kamloops—to say that we have not reduced the deficit since 1984. What they do not tell Canadians, however, is that 80 per cent of the increase in the debt was money we had to borrow to pay the interest on the debt that we inherited from Allan MacEachen and company.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. Valcourt: That is the exact truth. They talk about the deficit. They have the gall to stand up in this House and talk about not reducing the deficit. Canadians would want to understand this. People pay too much tax. I agree with that. We all pay too much tax. But, then, that money that we receive—

Mr. Fisher: Stop treating them like that.

Mr. Valcourt: Mr. Speaker, I am sure they will have a chance. But that is part of the Liberal strategy too. They do not want the people to know. So when you speak in the House they try to interrupt you. Is that not terrible? Well, if what I am saying is not true, then let me speak, let me have my few minutes and then take your time when you have a chance.

Now, what was I saying about the deficit? Yes, the revenue. The taxes the people send here. All the taxes that Canadians pay, and they pay a lot, that money comes here. Before we came here all the money that Canadians paid would come in and then the government, the great Liberal government, would spend all that money of Canadian men and women, of working people, and they would borrow \$16 billion more to do all the things that these people, the *socialistes en cravate* forced them to do. You see, to be popular, you have to throw money at all

the problems. To be popular, you have to do what the Liberals did for 16 years. You have a problem. I have no solution. But, I will throw money at it. That is how they governed Canada.

• (1620)

It took us six years to take that \$16 billion deficit in our ordinary account and turn it into a \$9 billion surplus. That is a \$25 billion turnaround. That is not in the polls to which the member for Kamloops referred. The polls and the media in their *grandeur* would not report these facts. These are real facts. Canadians have saved money in terms of the way it is being administered.

Now it is fair for those people to say, “Well, you say now, Valcourt, that you have a \$9 billion surplus in the ordinary account, a \$9 billion surplus, and you cut the poor, the women’s programs. You cut this and you cut that”. What they do not say to Canadians, the men and women who work and their children who are coming behind, is that we need \$30 billion a year just to pay the interest on the debt that we have, the debt that the great Allan MacEachen gave us.

An hon. member: Jean Chrétien.

Mr. Valcourt: The Jean Chrétien’s of this world—you know the guy who is running in Beauséjour? The leader of the Liberal Party.

[*Translation*]

The little guy from Shawinigan is running in New Brunswick, in Acadian country.

Mr. Samson: He isn’t here yet!

Mr. Valcourt: No, he isn’t. But he is on his way. We want him here. He should be here.

An hon. member: Maybe.

Mr. Valcourt: And that is what people are complaining about.

I remember, when Prime Minister Mulroney won the last election, I don’t think he—

Mr. Gauthier: He bought that election.

Mr. Valcourt: They say he bought it. Listen to that, Canadians! That is what the Liberal Party thinks Canadians are like—and I want that to be on the record—Canadians are people whose votes can be bought! Well I don’t think so, because I believe that Canadians are intelligent people. When faced with an easy solution,