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able, at last, to explain to their constituents the economic problems of the country.

Mr. Speaker, obviously everybody would like to see interest rates coming down. But I think if we want a normal interest rate in this country, we need a normal rate of inflation. A normal rate of inflation means that Canadians should not ask for more goods and services than the country can produce. This means that everybody should cooperate. Therefore, I urge the opposition today to get aboard the train of economic realism for the country's sake and to tell their constituents and their provinces: "Please, cut your spending". The only government which, since 1984, did not increase its spending is the Canadian government.

Mr. Della Noce: The Conservative government.

Mr. Vincent: Our operating expenditures, Mr. Speaker, have not increased since 1984. How many industries, provinces or individuals have not increased their spending since 1984? Not very many, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, we managed to move 800,000 people above the poverty line. We created 1,600,000 jobs. Those were the results of the 1984 economic statement of the Hon. Minister of Finance, which we continue to implement. Canadians, whether provinces, companies, individuals or the opposition, must realize that.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to tell what happened in my riding over the weekend. I met one of my constituents who had come to Ottawa the week before. She was walking on the sidewalk and she fell down. She was looking at the Parliament building when she fell. Somebody helped her get back on her feet. She turned around and saw it was Mr. Chrétien. She recognized him and said to him: "Mr. Chrétien, what can I do to thank you for helping me get back on my feet?" And Jean Chrétien answered: "Well, madam, you can vote for me in the next election." She said: "Listen, I may have fallen on my buns, but not on my head, Mr. Chrétien!"

Mr. Speaker, since 1984, this government reduced the deficit by 10 billion dollars. Our federal expenditures, Mr. Speaker, were growing at a rate lower, annually, than the inflation rate, even with the growth in all the statutory programs.

• (1740)

We have been doing since 1984 what no Minister of Finance did in twenty years of Liberal government. Not one of them! Old leader, new leader, they all increased expenditures, but they never actually managed the country. What we have now is a realistic monetary and tax strategy which is good for Canada. You know what is wrong with it? It is blocked by a bunch of non-elected senators who think they own the Senate. They do not, Mr. Speaker. They are non-elected members and I challenge all the Liberal senators to come and run in our ridings—I will be kind, in the Quebec ridings only—against Conservative members of Parliament with their policies for a platform. Imagine, their own leader went to New Brunswick to run. But since he is in the middle of an electoral campaign, I will spare him. We were gracious. We have no candidate running against him to make sure he will be elected.

Mr. Speaker, it is inadmissible that people who are not elected attempt to implement a program which was defeated in the 1988 elections by the people who wanted to get elected. The Minister of Finance pointed out again today that the Liberals were taking a stand against the GST in their 1988 electoral platform. The Liberals were not elected. Why? Because the Canadians wanted free trade because it is excellent for Canada, because they wanted a real leader, because they wanted a real Finance Minister and because they wanted tax reform. There is a piece of legislation presently blocked in the Senate which provides for all large Canadian companies to pay their fair share of tax. The non-elected Liberal senators don't even have the decency to pass that bill. And then we are told the Conservative Party is the one that represents large corporations! No, Mr. Speaker, it is not the Conservative Party but Liberal senators, the Liberal Party with MacEachen who is associated with the Bank of Montreal, and so on. Such is the situation in our country.

We must be realistic. My message to those senators, the one Canadians and the people from the riding of Trois-Rivières asks me to deliver, is to sit down, to talk sense, to state their position calmly to the population and then to respect—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Parkdale—High Park on a point of order.