says "We must follow the United States interest rates. We agree with the interest rate policy of the present American Government". There is something fishy going on here, Mr. Speaker. There is something confusing in that kind of Conservative logic.

Mr. Crosbie: You are easily confused.

Mr. Riis: It may be an indication of what is to come if and when the Conservatives ever form a government in Canada. For example, in July, 1982 the Hon. Member for St. John's West was quoted in *Maclean's* magazine as having said: "If I told you what I would do, we would never get elected". That might give us a clue as to why the Hon. Member was a little vague in what he would do if the Tories were ever to form a government. Just before that, the Hon. Member for St. John's West in an interview for the *Watson Report* on television said: "Our leaders have to be a little less honest. We are not being devious and tricky enough". Again I wonder if that does not give us some indication of from where the Hon. Member is coming: the Tories have to be tricky and devious, a little less honest with the people of Canada. However, the crowning statement of them all from the Hon. Member for St. John's West came on November 25, 1983. In an interview with a reporter for *The Globe and Mail* he said: "We are not giving away anything. If you want to find out what our policies are, presumably, then you must elect us".

Do you think at a time when Canadians are hurting so much that they are prepared to buy a pig in a poke, that they are prepared to say: "I know you are going to do all sorts of mean and nasty things to us, I know you have to be tricky and dishonest. I hear that is what you are saying. We are going to support a political party that tells the people of Canada that is what they will do"? I do not think Canadians will buy that for a moment, Mr. Speaker.

Let me say what I think should be done about interest rates at this moment. I go back to the premise that at present levels, with the prime rate in the 12 per cent range and likely to go up in the next few weeks, what fragile recovery is under way today in certain parts of the country will not be sustained and what strong recovery is occurring in certain sectors will likely be aborted if these interest rates are allowed to track upward or to follow U.S. rates upward.

There are really two sets of policies which the Government could pursue at this time. One is to take some real gutsy action. When I say gutsy action, I mean recognize the severity of the problem and what it means to have nearly two million Canadians who want to work unable to find work. Recognize what that means particularly to the young generation of Canadians seeking work for the first time. The Government of Canada should direct the Governor of the Bank to take steps to reduce those interest rates. If there are some Canadians who would abandon their country, abandon the economic sector and take some speculative money and move it out of the country, I say they should have a right to do that. But they should pay a certain penalty for doing so. After all, we do ask people who move against the general interest of Canadian society to pay penalties. Major industrial polluters are asked to pay a penalty if they are contravening the environmental regulations which most Canadians suggest are appropriate. If drinkers drive and jeopardize the lives of innocent Canadians, we penalize them. If people want to move money out of the country at a time when it is desperately needed, they should have that right, but they should pay a penalty. That is why we suggest a speculative tax be considered if necessary.

In conclusion—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The hon. gentleman's time has expired. Are there any questions?

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I hate to contradict what my hon. friend and colleague from Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) has said. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) has made some statements as to where reductions would come in the deficit. Let me quote what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said: "What would I do? I would cut everywhere and under every circumstance. I would cut consultants, outside lawyers, accountants, advertising, public service, compensation, waste, unproductive subsidies, travel, indexed pensions and fringe benefits, capital construction programs, capital overruns, and just plain bureaucratic excess, to name but a few examples". That was published in *The Globe and Mail* on August 2, 1982. The author was the Leader of the Opposition speaking about where he would cut to reduce the deficit.

I would ask the Hon. Member whether he has heard similar comments from the Leader of the Opposition. If so, would he confirm that this is what is really behind the Tory rhetoric about deficit reduction?

Mr. Crosbie: What about Turner's rhetoric?

Mr. Evans: Right now the Tories are not being specific, Mr. Speaker. But the specifics were put prior to the time the Leader of the Opposition took his current position.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I notice the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for St. John's West says "we can have greater independence in interest rate policy". That does not necessarily mean the Conservatives will have. I think that is very important wording. Obviously the motion was worded with a great deal of thought.

I appreciate the comments made by the Hon. Member in terms of some specifics presented by the Leader. Let me elaborate on that. I want to give the Progressive Conservatives at least some benefit of the doubt, but since the topic has been raised I do recall some discussions, again highlighting the words of the Hon. Member for St. John's West. I hate to refer to the Member for St. John's West all the time when it comes to negative comments. However, I think he did make some reference to the possibility of a means test, cutting back on the universality of family allowance and pensions and that sort of thing. I think though that he might have done some backstepping on it some time ago.

With the support of the House, Mr. Speaker, I do have a few additional comments; probably two or three minutes would