

Could one not get away with this great tax evasion if one bought four or five in a box?

● (1530)

Finally, can the Minister explain whether or not, when popsicles and ice-cream bars are referred to, fudgesicles are also covered? Young people want to know the answers to these questions. These are new taxes imposed by the Government. There are a great many young people around who want to know the answers. Perhaps to some people these are the most important items in the Budget. Will the Minister tell us why the Government is picking on those items which we see young people going into stores to buy? Perhaps they are spending the only bit of money they have, their recess money, which will now go to pay federal tax for the first time on some of these items. Why is the Government of Canada picking on these items?

**Mr. Riis:** Make the kids pay.

**Mr. Baker:** The kids will pay for the great national debt that the Conservatives are talking about.

**Mr. Riis:** Let them eat unsalted nuts.

**Mr. Charest:** Mr. Speaker, I can see why my colleague from the Liberal Party objects to the Government taxing nuts. In the financial situation in which the Liberals find themselves it means that a lot fewer people will give them money. People who usually fund their Party will have less money in their pockets. That gives one an idea of where the Party stands, which was the last point I covered in my speech. Where does the opposition Party stand? That is the biggest unanswered question of the last two-and-a-half years.

I remember watching the Liberal Leader of the day on television. He was reconfirmed at at least five different conventions. When the Liberals get together they have to reconfirm him each time. At the time he was saying: "We will reduce the deficit in half in seven years". Since then we wonder where they stand. Every time they have a convention they come up with another policy on trade.

I am glad the Hon. Member brought up the recess aspect. The recess is over for the Liberal Party of Canada. It is time the Liberals started to stand up for something. The youth policy of the Liberal Party, as stated once by the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) who sits in front of the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker), was to reduce the entry age of the Senate because it was discriminatory toward young people. He got up in the House and said that. That was the Liberals' youth policy. It is on record. It is in the debates. Now the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate hits on the subject of food. There may be a connection between the Senate and food and youth. Some people will see a connection. We can take it from now that the youth policy of the Liberal Party of Canada is not to tax candy for young people since that does not help them. Maybe my colleague who sits behind

me is right. He said spontaneously, to paraphrase Marie Antoinette: "Let them eat fruit".

**Ms. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I was not here to hear the entire speech of the Hon. Minister. I have a serious question which I would like to ask of him if he could concentrate on it for a moment, please.

In Vancouver East the unemployment rate for young people is 15 per cent. For young men it is 17.5 per cent. That is the official unemployment rate. It is not the unofficial rate, which means there are many others whose names are not in the computers who are also unemployed and who would like to be working and have some sort of future. I do not see anything in the Budget at all that will help these young men and women. As the Minister of State for Youth and as an advocate for these young people I want to ask him what he will do about this situation. What does he think should have been done about it in this Budget?

**Mr. Charest:** Mr. Speaker, that is a good question. It is a question which gives me the opportunity to point to the real, fundamental bottom line—

**Ms. Mitchell:** I am going to mail out your reply, so be careful.

**Mr. Charest:** I have had the opportunity of travelling around the country and talking to people in all walks of life who are concerned about the problem of youth unemployment and youth generally. I have told them that it is a little tough to put out any type of policy, whether it be for youth, older people or middle-class people, when interest rates are running at 18 per cent.

**Mr. Riis:** They're not 18 per cent now.

**Ms. Mitchell:** So you'll just write them off, will you?

**Mr. Charest:** There is a basic premise that if one wants to get things working one has to start at the beginning.

**Ms. Mitchell:** They will be senior citizens by the time you get finished.

**Mr. Charest:** That is exactly what the Government has done.

**Ms. Mitchell:** What? It's done nothing.

**Mr. Charest:** In Vancouver and in other places in Canada we are very sensitive to the fact that youth unemployment is too high.

**Ms. Mitchell:** What are you doing about it? What will you do about it?

**Mr. Charest:** It has gone down in the last two years—not enough, and we concede that. It has dropped by about four percentage points across Canada.