

argue against the necessity for borrowing. What did they do after assuming office? They brought in borrowing Bills at least as large if not larger than those brought in by the previous administration.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that you will be fascinated by the following. I remember a debate in the early part of the 1980s when the then finance critic, the present Minister of Finance, said that interest rates were okay at the high level. He went to Montreal and made a speech to its board of trade. He said there was nothing the Government could do about high interest rates, that they were just a product of the economy and that we had to live with them. At the very same time, Conservative Members sitting beside him were rising in the House of Commons and demanding of the Government of the day that it bring down interest rates. If some poor soul from the outback in Canada wanted to get the Tory position, he or she could either have the "Michael Wilson" position on interest rates, being high out of necessity, or some other position put by another Conservative Member, requiring that interest rates be brought down. This tells us something about the Government.

No sooner did the Conservatives move into Government and we were confronted by the spectacle of the argument over universality. The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees), my good friend and colleague, will remember this well. On the one hand, we had the Minister of Finance arguing that we could not afford universality. On the other hand, we had another fellow who was saying that universality was a sacred trust. Who was that?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. I am very sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain.

Mr. Deans: I will be back.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[Translation]

TOURISM

IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, several sectors have been hit hard by the Wilson Budget, particularly the tourist industry. At least ten-odd measures

S.O. 21

will affect tourism: the excise tax increase, 4 per cent on alcohol and 6 per cent on tobacco; the 1 per cent sales tax increase which again applies to alcohol, tobacco and, in addition, gasoline; the air transportation tax from 9 to 10 per cent; the \$100 million cut-back in VIA Rail's budget; the new 3 per cent income surtax, which erodes the purchasing power of Canadian tourists; \$100 million less for the Canadian Jobs Strategy program and Challenge 86 and their many tourism-oriented jobs.

Those are so many measures which will drive into the ground an industry which happens to be vital to Canada's economy and whose progress entails untold efforts to overcome all obstacles—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The 60 seconds have expired.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, producers have been waiting for over a year for a strong commitment to maintaining a domestic sugar industry in Canada.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts made by the Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board) (Mr. Mayer) which finally resulted in a commitment, however vague, and a preliminary announcement. But it is only a preliminary announcement.

What about the \$30 million in stabilization still owed to Alberta producers? What about the variable levies and temporary floor prices? What about the corn syrup industry, which was barely mentioned? What about the details of the stabilization scheme that has still not been negotiated? Surely this vague pronouncement is not the final result of 18 months' work.

We look forward to a genuine long-term commitment to the industry, and we hope that today's optimism will not have been misplaced.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. André Plourde (Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup): Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the need to reduce the deficit. Here are statements made by a senior member of the Liberal Government during the election campaign.

In July 1984, he stated: "Government expenditures must come down. There is a lot of room for cut-backs in expenses and duplication. I think those reduced expenditures would enable us to save billions of dollars."