

*Supply*

The hon. member talks about wasting money. I am pleased to hear him talk about wasting money and I am also pleased to tell him that I am the only Canadian and Conservative member of Parliament, that releases his expenses throughout Canada. I release them to all the media, every three months. I just tabled a bill here in this House. I hope that the hon. member will support it so that after the next election all federal members of Parliament will make their expenses public. But when my colleague talks about wasting money for publication and publicity purposes in Canada, I would like to get figures. In any case, the federal government has always been the one that spent the most money to inform the taxpayers and the public of its programs. This has always been the case.

I agree with the hon. member when he says that it is not easy these days. We are here to serve the public, regardless of our political stripes.

In my offices, I have one in Senneterre where, for the first time they have an MP office, one in Amos and Val-d'Or. We take calls and it is not easy these days to talk to students and unemployed people, but together we can find solutions and go forward to build a better Canada.

**Mr. Bellemare:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I know that it is Friday afternoon and that everybody is tired. But is it appropriate in the House of Commons for a member to rise when he is wearing an old pair of blue jeans?

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I can assure the hon. member that, from where I am, I can see the hon. member is wearing a shirt, a tie and a jacket, as we can see on the television screen. This Friday afternoon, everything seems in order to me.

**Mr. Saint-Julien:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order because I would like to show to all Canadians that indeed I am wearing jeans. But wearing jeans is as important in Abitibi as wearing a suit. Where I come from, people wear suits or jeans, and I will not let others insult me because I wear jeans. I have the right to wear them in the House.

[*English*]

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine):** Madam Speaker, I just hope the said jeans were made in Canada and were union made.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to stand in support of the motion before the House today which reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government is incapable of providing leadership and direction in the economic and social affairs of the nation and has lost the confidence of this House and of the Canadian people and that, therefore, an election should be called forthwith, in accordance with the Canadian custom, practice and tradition of holding a general election at least every four years.

I am not sure about the part that talks about Canadian custom. It has been for the last couple of years, but it has not always been like that.

One of the reasons why I fully support the motion itself is that there is an increasing or growing number of Canadians who will become thoroughly convinced that this government is on a scorched earth policy in so far as the Canadian infrastructure is concerned.

A growing number of Canadians sincerely believe that we are going down a path that will see the eventual destruction of Canada as we know it as an independent, sovereign nation.

Madam Speaker, as you have consistently watched how this government has operated since it came into power in 1984, I am sure that as an independent member of the House you would share some of those concerns.

I particularly want to spend a few minutes talking about what this government has done on the fiscal front since it was elected in 1984. From the then Minister of Finance's first budget when he attacked old age pensions by attempting to deindex them and was unsuccessful in doing that—but he was successful in deindexing family allowances at the time—and in nearly every successive budget since that government came to power there has been a continued attack on Canada's social safety net.

One of the major arguments that the government has used for attacking these social programs is that the government has to control Canada's deficit and social programs are the cause of Canada's deficit.