

government. The head of that government was Tommy Douglas and his second in command was C.M. Fines. If ever there was anybody who could twist the truth and peddle the garbage—and be backed up by someone who twisted the finances and peddled the garbage even better than he could—it was Tommy Douglas. But never up until now have I heard anybody who has done a job almost equal to what Tommy Douglas and C.M. Fines did. Never have I heard their equal until I listened to my friend, Senator Barootes, talking about what is happening now and what has happened in Saskatchewan.

I never thought I would see this day and hear those remarks from a man who joined me at one time in defeating the CCF government. The members of that government positioned themselves as friends of the people. That government was made up of people who never said a wrong word or put their foot down in the wrong place. That government was only ever helping the people. In fact, as Senator Barootes well knew, what that government was doing was helping its friends, helping itself and putting the people of Saskatchewan deeper into the hole. In fact, there used to be a sign on the borders of Alberta and Manitoba which said, "Would the last person who leaves Saskatchewan please turn out the lights." Honourable senators, that is a fact.

Today I have listened to someone talk about the present government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada as if those governments had never set a foot down wrong—as if everything they had done was for the benefit of the people. Honourable senators, the people of Saskatchewan have never, even under the NDP government, been in more trouble than they are today. And I might tell honourable senators that when the Government of Saskatchewan took over, its representatives used to boast. Grant Devine—who is a friend of mine, and I like him—used to boast: "We are going to bypass the depression of Canada. We have decided that we will not take part in Canada's recession. We have less unemployment, we have more prosperity, and more of the good things than they have seen anywhere else in this country." That was a year and a half ago, and during that same period, a year and a half or two years, they have overspent by something like \$2 billion.

● (1630)

I would like the senator to realize that never in the history of Saskatchewan, until we elected the Grant Devine Conservative government, had we ever had a deficit—never under the old Liberals; and never under that unbelievable Tory government that we had from 1929 to 1934—which was half Tory and half Ku-Klux Klan. Even under the wild CCF, the crazy CCF, the Tommy Douglas CCF, did we ever have a deficit. Certainly, we had never had a deficit under the Thatcher government. Even when Allan Blakeney came back in 1971 and knocked us out of the ball park we did not have a deficit. Then we got Grant Devine and the Conservatives. We then had the two best years we had ever had in the history of Saskatchewan, and we started to build up the deficit. Now it is \$2 billion. They are going to win the next election!

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Steuart: Thank you very much for applauding. You love them because you are a left-winger. I am surprised that the honourable senator would love them, because he used to term himself a middle-of-the-road right-winger. Now we are going to have a Conservative government. Why? The other day I said to a bunch of Conservatives—

An Hon. Senator: Will you vote for them?

Senator Steuart: No, I am not going to vote for them. You might, but I won't. I said the other day to a bunch of Conservatives: "You Conservatives are beautiful. I have never seen Allan Blakeney so off base. I have never seen him react so badly to an election." They said: "Thank you very much, senator, this is wonderful. Why do you think we have done it?" I said: "Because he finally met a bunch of characters who are more goofy than he is." They are spending more money than they ever thought of spending. They have taken his turf. There is no turf left for the CCF. There is no room left for the CCF. Grant Devine has plunged our province into \$2 billion worth of debt, and in this election campaign he is not just promising, he has already spent another half a billion dollars—and the honourable senator knows that as well as I do. So, don't tell this Senate or the Canadian public that it is a good government. It is a government like the one we have in Ottawa, that will do anything, say anything, make any move to get back in power, and the honourable senator should be ashamed of himself that he would be part of that government, that would plunge—

Senator Barootes: Is this a question?

Senator Steuart: It is not a question. I am making a speech, for God's sake. If you do not understand what a speech is, then you do not understand anything. You made a speech. I have never in my life been so sickened by a speech. You talk about what the federal government is doing for the farmers. What are you doing for them? You are carrying on Otto Lang's deal, which you opposed—which every Tory in the House of Commons opposed—in connection with the stabilization program, which has given Saskatchewan farmers \$1 billion. You have now promised something weak in the Throne Speech. You say that you will do something better. I do not know what it is. I hope it is something better. As a Saskatchewan man, I hope it is something, and Grant Devine is praying that it is something.

I had not intended to speak today, but when I heard the honourable senator speak, I was never in my life so disappointed or upset by what he said—never mind making the sign of the cross or making some of those cheap remarks. I have never been so disappointed to hear anyone praise the lack of action for the people on the prairies and then praise what Grant Devine and this government has done in spending to the extent that our little province, of less than one million people, now has a deficit that his grandchildren and my grandchildren will never be able to pay off. They have done everything—and the honourable senator knows this as well as I do—to buy this election—and, unfortunately, I have to believe that they have bought it. I have to believe that you have this fellow Blakeney so upset that he cannot even outpromise you. As someone said to me the other day: "Our people are spending the money."