

economic decisions. They cannot be bought off by glitz and glamour and heavy public relations or ad campaigns.

Mr. Soetens: That is why they voted for us.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): That is not why they voted for you. The fact of the matter is that in the last election they were bought off.

The tactic of the Government is to try valiantly to cover up that type of opportunity and to use modern techniques of propaganda, manipulation and communication distortion to get around it. It succeeds once in a while. It gets by. A negative campaign can be run. One can go around calling others liars. However, the fact is that it is coming home to roost.

We have seen in the House of Commons the Minister of Finance no longer has a shred of credibility left. No one will ever believe again that Minister of Finance. There is no longer any trust or confidence in this Minister of Finance. The only people who do have that are those who lock themselves in to the Tory caucus room on Wednesday mornings and who, through a succession of psychological cheer-leading, get themselves to believe somehow, that the world around them is all right.

Mr. Kempling: Have you been there?

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): I have never been invited. I would be glad to attend. The Hon. Member has just issued me an invitation. Maybe for the first time Members of the Tory caucus would get some straight facts and honest talk if I were invited to attend.

An Hon. Member: Can you make coffee?

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): The Hon. Member asks if I can make coffee. No, I cannot, but I am very good at making hemlock.

Mr. Kempling: Then take some.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): The fact is that that is the requirement that we on this side of the House believe has to take place. We really believe at this point in time in looking at the economy of Canada that there is a great deal more to be done than just zeroing in on deficit reduction as is done on the business pages or the Tory caucus room. There are fundamental questions on how to have full employment shared equally across the country in all regions so that people do not feel separated, divorced or that they are being relegated to a hinterland without any sense of concern. Canadians will

still be able to have the right to choose jobs in their own region and not have to retreat or migrate to large urban areas simply to support their families.

We believe very fundamentally that we have a major responsibility to deal with a new reality of international trade and international competition. That will create for Canadians perhaps our biggest test economically. How can we get our research, development and training into some type of effective investment across the country so that we can meet those types of needs without cutting back or reducing those programs?

We believe that in terms of the environment there will have to be some serious judgments made about whether we simply promote unqualified economic growth without seeing that all that growth has very severe environmental costs. It will take some economic reform in the way we make things and do things in order to make sure that those costs will not be passed on to other generations. Those are the economic issues of our time. They are the type of things that we have to examine. We received nothing of the sort in the Budget. We have received nothing of the sort in the economic statements by Ministers. We have seen nothing of the sort in the approach taken by the Minister of Finance.

The Government is asking for approval of a borrowing authority. It needs money. What the country really needs is good, serious economic policy. It needs good management and honesty. It needs some sense of fairness.

We open a session of Parliament with certain prayers. It is probably worth it to close my remarks with a note sent to me by a constituent who puts the calamity and tragedy into its proper religious mode. It states:

Mike Wilson is my shepherd. I am in want. He maketh me to lie down on park benches. He leadeth me beside the still factories. He disturbeth my soul. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of recession. I anticipate no recovery, for he is still with me. He anointeth my small income with great taxes. My expenses runneth over.

Surely unemployment and poverty will follow me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in a mortgaged house forever.

That sums up properly the economic management style of the present Minister of Finance. What it does not set out is the enormous vacuum that exists in all the other areas of crucial economic policy. What the country is crying out for, something which it has an enormous appetite for, is some real choice, some real sense of the judgment that will have to be applied by Canadians in terms of getting our economy right, making it fair,