

vigorously against increased in gasoline taxes in 1980, only to impose greater increases when they became government.

I am not certain the moral authority assumed by the previous speaker is all that warranted. However, let me try one more time to point out to him the consistency of the NDP position. It is this: the Senate, as it is now constituted, should be abolished, done away with. There is no reason to retain that place.

• (1810)

Second, having abolished it, it is perfectly reasonable to inquire as to what might thereupon replace it. It is a simple problem. You can try to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but once you have that silk purse you don't have the sow's ear any more; you have done away with it. That is exactly what we propose to do with the Senate.

I would only ask the hon. member by way of question: Why is it that he is incapable of understanding this simple distinction?

Madam Deputy Speaker: A very short rebuttal from the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Milliken: Madam Speaker, this is simplicity itself, apparently, to the hon. member for Edmonton East. I am a simple lawyer. I only read the words that are put before me. I heard the hon. member for Kamloops make this speech. He said: "We voted at our December convention to change our party policy on the Senate, whereas once we were satisfied that the Senate had to be abolished and that was it we are now in the process of looking at a variety of options."

In other words, the abolition policy is out the window. This motion clearly shows it is out the window. If it should be abolished, you do not urge it to do something.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member. His time has expired.

Resuming debate with the hon. member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to participate in this debate.

There is a number of ways a member of Parliament gets elected to this House and there is a number of ways in which he gets re-elected. Most important, of course, is

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to say what your party is going to do and, if you are as fortunate as we were in 1984 to be elected, to be able to run on what your party has done. Certainly we have done that in all areas.

I remember the pamphlets in 1984, as I am sure other members in the House remember. Jobs, jobs, jobs was right on the front of the Tory pamphlet. We passed out thousands of them in Niagara Falls. As all members of the House know and as you know, Madam Speaker, we delivered on that promise. Those were things that helped me as a member and I am sure other members of the Progressive Conservative Party, in being elected in 1984.

In 1988 we ran on our record. As I have said in this House on a number of occasions, it is always one of the things that defines and helps mark the difference between a Liberal and a Progressive Conservative. Progressive Conservatives are always proud to talk about their record in office. The Liberals always say you are being unfair if you bring up matters when they were in power. That is just a fact, but those of us on the government side are proud to talk about what we did between 1984 and 1988, and it helped get us re-elected.

Mrs. Browes: Excellent record.

Mr. Nicholson: Many of the things we have done since then we certainly talked about during the election campaign. I can tell hon. members that I remember on a number of occasions—in fact every public forum I was at—people challenging me with comments made by the member for Mississauga South on the subject of the GST. It was certainly discussed during that election campaign. We have gone forward and implemented those measures.

Those are the things that I think helped. At the same time, if you are lucky you get help from the members of the opposition. That is one of the reasons like the NDP. It is certainly one of the reasons I am pleased to participate in this debate.

Today we got a little bit of help from members of the NDP. For that I know I can always count on them. They have introduced a motion that a message be sent to the Senate just to remind the members of the Senate that they have a constitutional right and the power to defeat any bill coming into the House of Commons. That is what they have asked us to do.