

their motion, in condemning the government "for following a made-in-Washington interest rate policy and for breaking its promise". We join them in condemning, disparaging, deploring and criticizing, indeed, even weeping over, this Liberal government's interest rate policy, and in particular over its record of broken promises.

The motion deals just with the promise made in last year's throne speech but in fact the record of broken promises by the Liberal party extends much beyond last year's throne speech. This is the same party headed by the same Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) which in virtually every throne speech and every budget speech over the last decade and longer promised to increase growth, reduce unemployment, reduce inflation and keep interest rates low.

Remember the famous commitment that the Prime Minister was going to wrestle inflation to the ground. Remember the promise not to impose wage and price controls and then the flip-flop to do exactly that. Remember the promise that after controls were phased out inflation would decline to about 3 per cent or 4 per cent by 1981. Remember the first ministers' meeting in the summer of 1978 when the Prime Minister declared confidently that, as a result of Liberal party economic policies, by 1981 inflation would be at 3.5 per cent. As we know, inflation in 1981 is at 12.7 per cent, higher than at any time since 1948 when the war-imposed wage and price controls came off. Remember the promises and commitments of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien), when he was Minister of Finance, in his budget of 1978. He predicted quite confidently that that budget would reduce inflation to 6 per cent.

Let us consider what the Liberals had to say when they were in opposition and during the election campaign. Remember The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray), when he was finance critic for the Liberal party, saying in the Commons finance committee on October 25:

We of the official opposition, while recognizing concern about inflation, are also very concerned about the impact of these increases in interest rates to record levels on the economy as a whole, and particularly on small business, farmers and consumers.

I wonder what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is saying now as he sits around the cabinet table?

What did the Prime Minister have to say on February 10, 1980? He said:

I would want to manage the economy in such a way that interest rates would in fact come down . . . because the economy would be administered in a sounder way.

It was just pointed out to me that this subject so interests the Liberal party that, while the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) is in Gabon, we have two members present in the House of their caucus of 145.

**An hon. Member:** That's how much they care.

**Mr. Andre:** I wonder if the House remembers the statement reported in *The Toronto Sun* on February 4 by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, then the finance spokesman for the Liberal party, who said:

### *Interest Rate Policy*

It is my belief we can manage the economy in a way that would allow us to have lower interest rates than we have now and I think we can have greater independence in interest rate policy.

I don't think that allowing the dollar to have some downward adjustment would do as much harm to our economy as our present high level of interest rates.

Then he said the same thing on "The Watson Report" on October 15, 1979; he said the same thing in the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs on October 30, 1979; and so forth.

• (1550)

Those were the promises and commitments of the Liberal party with regard to interest rates. There have been more broken promises than just those in the throne speech which were made and broken, which we condemn along with the New Democratic Party. There is a long trail of broken promises. In fact, based on what the Liberals have promised and what they have delivered, only a fool would believe anything a Liberal says, and only a party of fools would so quickly and unshamedly jump in and out of bed with them.

The reality of the Liberal government is that promises, commitments and goals are political instruments to be used to manipulate public opinion, and they have little or no relationship to performance or to the programs which are devised and implemented in virtually complete isolation.

For example, let us look at the last so-called budget, or budget-cum-energy statement. The intent of the programs and policies contained therein are very clear. The intent is to increase federal control over the oil and gas industry, to give the federal government access to more revenue, to increase state ownership and to sacrifice, if necessary, the conventional oil and gas industry in order to promote offshore and high Arctic exploration, which is under federal jurisdiction. Those are not particularly politically palatable, so while that is the reality of the program, the stated goals and promises are to attain self-sufficiency by 1990, to Canadianize the industry to 50 per cent Canadian ownership by 1990 and to have a fair revenue share. The goals have no relationship to the program. I concede that part of the program has been operated with some success, but the fact is that the promises, the commitments, the goals and the objectives are PR fluff. They are put out by Mr. McLaren and Dr. Goebbels' department through his advertising campaign, but they have nothing to do with the reality of the program.

At least I will say that the government has an energy program, wrong-headed, dumb, disastrous and damaging as it is. In the Department of Finance there is not even a program. There is no program at all. The subject seems to interest neither the Prime Minister nor the Minister of Finance. After being re-elected last February on a platform which had to do with energy, inflation and interest rates, the Prime Minister then devoted virtually the entire next year to a personal crusade to impose on this country his own version of what our Constitution should be, in spite of the damage this might do to the country. Now that he apparently has done as much damage as he can do in that regard, he is traipsing around the