

spent on debt interest payments, but perhaps the whole dollar. We cannot do that to future generations of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, I see that you are signalling me that my time has expired. I want to invite all members of this House to consider the seriousness of the situation and to support the measures proposed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in his Budget.

[English]

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House listened attentively for the last 20 minutes to the Minister's speech. It was very difficult to ascertain what was fact and what was fiction, since the Minister failed to tell the House and Canadians about a number of different issues that must be brought to bear on the Government.

Perhaps the Minister can explain why, during the last election campaign, members of the Government did not tell the facts to Canadians as they are telling them now. They are now very bent on telling Canadians how important the deficit is and how important it is to make sacrifices. They are now saying that it is important that cuts be made and that it is important to claw back on family allowances. They say how important it is to take back on pensions and increase taxes. If it was important in January and February of 1989, why was it not important enough to tell Canadians that in terms of the economic outlook in September, October, and November of last year?

If it is so important now to increase taxes, how can the Minister explain to his constituents, to average families in his riding out in New Brunswick, that if they happen to be on the lower end of the economic scale, earning \$25,000 to \$30,000 in terms of family income, they now have to pay more than 60 per cent in taxes than they did in 1984, after five federal Budgets?

In the very elitist neighbourhoods in his ridings and elsewhere people earning \$100,000 and more will face an 8 per cent increase.

I would like him to tell the House and to explain to his constituents how fair that situation is, how fair that tax regime is. Perhaps Canadians will then have a fair and balanced overview of what the Government is actually trying to do.

*The Budget—Mr. Valcourt*

**Mr. Valcourt:** Mr. Speaker, I welcome a chance to answer my colleague from the Liberal Party. The way in which the Hon. Member put his question seemed to downplay the importance of the national debt, the debt that every Canadian, every kid, every person has to shoulder. He said that it was not important enough to speak about it during the last election campaign. I made the point, as did the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. We spoke about the deficit.

**Mr. Crawford:** No!

**Mr. Marchi:** It was written in invisible ink.

**Mr. Valcourt:** The hon. gentleman says: "No". I invite him to read the speeches that were made during the campaign by different Ministers, by different candidates on behalf of our Party.

**Mr. Marchi:** Table them.

**Mr. Valcourt:** That is not the issue. This just shows how much in the past and how not forward looking is the Liberal Party of Canada. Members of that Party would rather deal with what happened in November when we had a challenge facing us from coast to coast about the debt situation that plagues every Canadian. No, this is not serious enough for the Hon. Member. He would rather stay in the past and talk about what happened. What is going to happen in the future is what matters.

• (1530)

The Liberal Party has failed to bring in a solution or to propose anything. The Liberal Party has completely failed as Canadians in this House to tell the Minister of Finance that it is wrong to do this, that this should be done instead. The Liberal Party has not done this because it has no clue of what is taking place. The finance critic for the Liberal Party had an opinion as to the fiscal situation, as to what the Budget should be. Every Member in that caucus, their leader included, have denied the words of the Hon. Member for Etobicoke North (Mr. MacLaren). He is not even allowed to ask a question in the House. How many days has that Hon. Member been silenced? How many days has the official critic of the Liberal Party been silenced in this House? Explain that to Canadians. Why is he muzzled? Why is the Hon. Member for Etobicoke North muzzled?

**An Hon. Member:** Shirley Martin is being muzzled, not us.