

None of us wants to see an election fought around that issue. We want the thing resolved so we can get on with building a better Canada.

There is no party in a better position to do that than this party. We have proven that we are number one in the world and we are the envy of the rest of the world.

We will continue to fulfil our constitutional mandate. When that time arrives or we have to go back to the Canadian people we will do it with a great deal of confidence and a great deal of support from the Canadian people.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I listened attentively to the member and I was astounded that he started his comments by saying that the opposition party, the Liberal Party in this case, was having fun today.

The population is overloaded with taxes. The government has imposed 32 new taxes. The population has to deal with increasing bankruptcies every day. It is having to live with high unemployment every year with a million and a half Canadians out of jobs. I could go on but I have only a few minutes.

I want to tell the members who just spoke that it is no fun to talk about this government and, as some would say, its bankrupt ideas and proposals. It has destroyed the fabric of this country by destroying the confidence that Canadians had in their own country. It succeeded in doing that. I agree with that.

What we are trying to do today is oppose what this member is saying. Since he has bandied about this so-called UN study, I will quote from a paper from his own area, *The Halifax Chronicle Herald*. The article is dated April 20, 1992. It starts by saying: "Canadians may feel fed up and broke but they should take heart in the knowledge that their toughed-out and recession-battered country is the best in the world".

It goes on to say that Canadians should not get too complacent about their long lives in paradise. The 260-page UN study does say that Canada suffers too

much from drug related crime and too many traffic deaths.

It goes on to say: "In addition, wage disparities between men and women, like the income tax gap between the rich and the poor in Canada, is the highest". Canadian women still earn only two-thirds of men's wages for comparable work.

It goes on to say: "In fact, when gender disparities are included in the UN report, Canada slides back into eighth place in the survey behind the Scandinavian countries, France, Denmark and Australia".

Yes, we have a good country. We have worked hard to have a good country. This government is going to destroy the basic fundamental fabric of this country which is a belief, a strong belief, a strong knowledge and faith in the future of this country. This government must be taken to task. It must be called to account before Canadians as to why it cannot take criticism. Why did it abolish over 40 agencies in the last while? Those agencies were independent of us, independent of Parliament, independent of the government—the Law Reform Commission, the Economic Council of Canada, the Court Challenges Program.

Why is it that to go to court you have to be rich? The day to account for what this government has done has finally come, and we hope and pray that an election will be called to clear the air.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, the opposition can hope and pray all it wishes. I will guarantee that an election is coming. I am not even the Prime Minister, but I will guarantee it. It is not coming in the next 30 days, however. That is the time frame in which it wants to fight it. Last week, and this is quite interesting, we gained four points in the Gallup poll at the expense of the party for which the hon. member just spoke, the Liberal Party. Again, timing is on our side.

Canadians are suddenly realizing as they watch television every night that we are not unique. We do have our difficulties and I recognize those. We recognize that we have difficulties, but our difficulties are pale in comparison to the rest of the world. There is not one single