

their own recommendations, they will be revealed forever as members who lack the courage of their beliefs.

Some of them are pretending now they didn't realize what they were doing. The Minister of State for Quebec (Mr. Joyal)—he is in the House today—told Mr. Michel Gratton, and I quote:

So you see, I was more interested in what was going on than in reading the letter.

Mr. Speaker, ministers don't have the luxury of not knowing what they're signing. They hold responsible positions. They have to stand by what they say—and what they sign. That is a rule of cabinet. And it is a rule of simple courage for private members to stand by what they say.

If these members vote against this motion, they betray their own signatures. The question for them is clear and inescapable—do they prefer their people or their party?

• (1230)

[English]

Mr. Speaker, it is not only hon. members from Quebec who have spoken against the budget and who will have to prove today whether they will vote in Ottawa the way they speak at home. The hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Weatherhead), the chairman of the Ontario Liberal caucus, said that Ontario Liberal members feel just as strongly as the ten Montreal members do, if not more so. The hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) has said, "People are saying that the Liberal government must turn the economy around before there is permanent damage." The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), the hon. member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner), the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, the hon. member for Kitchener (Mr. Lang), so we believe, the hon. member for Guelph (Mr. Schroder), the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. MacBain), the hon. member for Essex-Kent (Mr. Daudlin), the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Ferguson) and the hon. member for London-Middlesex (Mr. Bloomfield), and perhaps several others, have spoken words designed to be heard just at home, words which have not yet been carried to the national scene. I tell them that their words will be remembered at home and will be repeated here. The only way they can honour their standing and their identities as individuals of principle will be to vote in Ottawa the way they speak at home.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shields: Now we'll see!

Mr. Clark: Yesterday marked the second anniversary of the election of this government. We all know the promises it broke, the way it earns its reputation as a party whose word cannot be trusted anywhere in this country. I do not want to dwell on that. What I want to underline is that its actions since that election raise even deeper questions about whether Liberal ministers or Liberal members have any respect for democracy in Canada. The ministers have imposed major changes on the

country, such as abandoning VIA Rail without any public hearings—

Mr. Pepin: Not true!

Mr. Clark:—driving away energy investment, dividing Canada on the Constitution, proposing unilaterally to eliminate the Department of Regional Economical Expansion, taxing health and other employee benefits. The Liberal members have gone quietly along, adding their votes to all of these measures. However, none of these questions was discussed by the Liberals in the election campaign.

The message is very clear. The government has no mandate for these changes. Individual Members of Parliament have no mandate to support them. Most Canadians oppose what the government is doing. However, the government ignores them and individual Members of Parliament will have the opportunity, by their vote today, to indicate whether they will help the citizens who elected them to change a budget which the people do not want, and about which the people of Canada were not warned in the last election campaign.

Let me ask some questions of the House. What Liberal member of this House told his voters that he proposed a tax on accrued interest on new whole life insurance policies?

Mr. McDermid: Not one of them!

Mr. Clark: Did the hon. member for Kitchener? Did the hon. member for London West (Mr. Burghardt) or the hon. member for London East (Mr. Turner)? Did the hon. member for London-Middlesex indicate that when he sought the support of his electors?

What Liberal member told his voters he was proposing to tax employer contributions to Blue Cross or to reduce the payments mothers could receive under the child tax credit? Did the Minister of State for Mines (Mrs. Erola), who is responsible for the status of women, tell anyone that? Did the Minister of State promise that when she stood for election? Did the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) or did the hon. member for Scarborough West? Did the hon. member for South West Nova (Miss Campbell) make that promise when she was being elected? Did she tell people the truth about what she and her government intended to do? What Liberal member told his voters—

Mr. Simmons: How about cutting taxes?

Mr. Clark:—that he was proposing measures—

Mr. Nielsen: In your seat!

Mr. Clark:—which would triple the cost—

Some hon. Members: In your seat!

Mr. Nowlan: Get the Sergeant-at-Arms to throw the jackal out! He has to be in his seat.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Come on, Simmons, shut up!