help wondering if the doctors took into account the significant pay increase they just got on Wednesday afternoon last.

Mr. Pepin: You answered your own question.

Mr. Deans: Maybe the message did not filter down quickly enough, but that will ease the pain for them. Presumably they will not have to extra-bill; they have already been able to dig into the taxpayers' pocket through this move by the Government. That is wrong and the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) knows it is wrong. That is not the way to provide equity. That is not the way to assure there will be growth from the bottom up, to guarantee that people will be given an opportunity not only to provide for themselves but a chance to work.

What else happens? It is not only the doctors, the lawyers, consultants or accountants; oh no, we have even given Eaton's a break. Eaton's really need a tax break. I could tell they were in dire straits. There they were just limping along from million to million; all of a sudden we decide they need a tax break too. Where the hell is the tax break for people? No tax break for people; another billion or more in taxes this year that the average family will have to pay. Where is the guarantee that the next tax break for Eaton's and others like them will also be passed on to the consumer? No, there are never provisions to guarantee that.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a sad, sad state of affairs we are confronted with now. I feel totally frustrated by the way this Government has gone about its business in trying to do what should be done, if it is trying at all.

I listened to the lead-off speakers for the two Parties, and my colleague who made much the same argument I am making here this afternoon. The Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) rose and told jokes. He and the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) continuously say they are not going to tell the public what they would be because, if they did, the public would not vote for them. The Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) says that we need more money for jobs, and he is right. Then we have the Hon. Member for St. John's West saying we have got to cut the Budget, and he is wrong. That shows you the conflict that must be going on, and that worries me. That is why we cannot change things or make an impact on the Liberals, because there are two conflicting messages coming from the Conservative Party.

Mr. Mayer: Read the polls; the message is getting out.

Mr. Deans: The polls do not reflect what is happening here.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has elapsed. Questions or comments?

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, it is just incredible to listen to the NDP. Everyone knows they brought on the election in 1979 because they felt they were going to get more seats, but all they did was bring the Liberals back in.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fisher: Good guys, those NDPers.

Mr. Thacker: The very people they purport to represent have really been grievously injured since 1980 as a result. We know the trend line of the national debt has been going up. The most critical part is that the percentage of tax revenues just to service the debt, that is the interest, goes only to people with enough wealth to lend to their own Government with no risk or responsibility. Where would the Hon. Member draw the line as to the percentage of tax revenue that goes to service the debt? It started at about 10 per cent and now it is up over 30 per cent. Does he see it going to 50 per cent, 60 per cent, 70 per cent? Where would he draw the line?

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I think we made it quite clear that a significant part of the debt resulted from the very high interest rates which developed during the early part of the 1980s. We stood here in the House of Commons and demanded legislative action to bring interest rates down while the Conservative Party were saying all across the country that high interest rates were a necessity.

Mr. Mayer: That is not true. Be fair.

Mr. Deans: I am going to be absolutely fair. I am always fair.

Mr. Mayer: Sometimes less than others; that is the problem.

Mr. Deans: The hon. Member from Etobicoke, then the Conservative Party finance critic, was in Montreal at the time interest rates were about 20 per cent.

Mr. Thacker: We are dealing with that now.

Mr. Deans: The Hon. Member stood, I believe, before the Montreal Board of Trade and said that high interest rates were necessary. He supported the Government's high interest rate policy and he was prepared to live with the consequences.

I say to the Hon. Member who asked me the question that if the Conservatives had taken our advice, if we had taken the steps necessary to bring interest rates down, and if they had supported us in our efforts to do just that, we would have had fewer families lose their homes, fewer people lose their businesses, fewer farmers lose their farms, and we would have had a lower cost of servicing the debt than we now have.

● (1220)

For the Member to rise and ask such a question shows he has not done his homework. I suggest he go back to the records of the House of Commons and look with care at what his own Party has been advocating. On the one hand the Hon. Member for St. John's West has been arguing continuously for slashing, cutting and reducing expenditures. He is supported almost without exception by the Hon. Member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington), whose sole goal is to reduce the size of the Public Service, notwithstanding that that may cause great hardship.

On the other side of the coin the Hon. Member for St. John's East, whom I respect, is demanding more expenditures