

Mr. Clark: If I may speak for a moment, Mr. Speaker, on the subject of restraint, a few days ago on the national TV news the people of Canada were treated to the sight of two government Jetstars on the same tarmac at Calgary, having brought the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) separately to the same function.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Clark: While it may, indeed, be true that the two ministers find each other's company repugnant, it does make the Prime Minister look a little foolish when he preaches about discipline and restraint and then sends his ministers on separate Jetstars to the same event in Calgary.

A fourth reason, obviously, for the state of the Canadian economic climate is the way this government has dealt with controls. First of all, it wasted any trust that the people might have been prepared to give it as a government when the Prime Minister, in a national election campaign and on national television, pointed his finger at Canadians and said, "Zap, you're frozen", and then a year after condemning the program, turned himself completely around and introduced as policy what he had condemned on the way to winning a national election. It is bad enough that the Prime Minister should so absolutely reverse himself and break his word to the Canadian people, but what made it worse was the incompetence with which the controls program was introduced, his refusal to act on the commitments which the government gave for reforms in other fields of policy during the period of controls, and now the continuing uncertainty as to whether, or when, controls are going to come off.

We were told by the predecessor of the Minister of Finance earlier this summer that he expected to be able to announce, by the middle of the summer, a program for getting out of controls. Well, the middle of summer came and went, the end of summer came and went, the beginning of fall came, and the minister went.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: We still do not know when, or how, or whether, this country is going to get out of the program of controls which has done so much to destroy confidence in Canada and to drive to other countries money which Canadians and others would want to invest here to create jobs and growth if only they had a government they could trust. We shall resolve these problems only when we recognize that much of what has gone wrong in this country in the past decade is due directly to the policies of the government which has controlled Canada throughout that decade. That will not be easy to do, because it is the practice of this government to blame everybody but itself for things that have gone wrong.

● (1542)

There is really no reason at all for surprise at the fact that this government has lost so much confidence, when you consider that on questions other than the constitution and language

their strategy is set, not by a cabinet of ministers but by two advertising men from Toronto, one of whom is part of a company which grows plants without water and the other who is best known as the author of a book entitled "Have I Ever Lied To You Before?"

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Let me come to the Minister of Finance and start by saying to him very sincerely that I and my colleagues on this side of the House wish him well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: He, unhappily, inherits from his recent predecessors a legacy not only of failed policies but of total lack of any sense of direction for the national economy. The other day, when this most recent vacancy occurred, I realized that once again in Canada, for the second time in two years, we were without a minister of finance. If you define the job of minister of finance as being to give economic direction and leadership to the country, then we have not had a minister of finance since the right hon. gentleman became Prime Minister of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The challenge for the new minister is not simply to patch up a few holes, but to begin from the ground up to give this country a coherent economic development plan. I say to him quite sincerely that if he demonstrates concrete evidence of willingness to make that kind of change, then there will be co-operation from my colleagues. I say, with some sadness, that there is no indication in the Speech from the Throne, and no indication in anything the minister has said so far, to indicate that he intends any change of that kind of significance.

● (1546)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian economy is running adrift, without firm guidance from the government. Unemployment is endemic and, far from looking as if it will decrease, seems on the contrary to be headed towards further increases in coming months; while the former minister of finance forecast a rate of inflation of 6 per cent for this year, chances are it will reach at least 8 per cent. Our rate of growth, from very weak that it now is, will probably go down to 2 per cent for this year, in addition to which the value of our dollar is dropping from day to day. The Minister of Finance promised us he would face those problems tomorrow night. I trust the solutions of the minister will tackle directly the problems we face, that they will be more than window-dressing and will live up to the hopes the Liberal government has inspired towards the minister.

But there is one point which, to my mind, is very important, and which I should like to stress. The new Minister of Finance, faithful in that to the policy of his predecessors, seems to want to hold everyone but the present Liberal government respon-