

Supply

I found one of the great weaknesses of the Conservative Party today, and we saw it in the hon. member for Abitibi, is that they go back to 1984 or 1983 or 1972 or 1965. As you would expect, they never want to touch the 1930s. One thing we must remember is that we are talking about the government that is now in power. I will tell you about the period from 1988 to 1992 and this government should end in 1993. The debate is on 1988 to 1992, or 1993 if you prefer. The economic policies and guidelines and programs of this government are at issue. That is the question. The question is not whether former Prime Minister Clark or former Prime Minister Diefenbaker or former Prime Minister R. B. Bennett or former Prime Minister Trudeau or former Prime Minister Pearson did this or that.

That is like a boxer who talks about his previous fights of past years. The fight that concerns us is the one today. Today's fight is on the period from 1988 to 1992. I would like the hon. member to tell me about the reports we see every week in the Public Accounts Committee: the Auditor General's reports and disastrous comments about this government's mismanagement. It is all very well to tell us that 89 jobs were created in Abitibi. I would like to know how many food banks were created in Abitibi, in Quebec and throughout Canada between 1988 and 1992. How many manufacturing plants shut down? How many people were laid off? How many unemployed do we have? How many people are looking for work? How many are on welfare? And of those who have jobs, how many feel insecure because of the lack of confidence? What is the interest rate today? And to conclude, if he wants to end with just this question, how much money did the government waste from 1988 to 1992 on advertising campaigns on television and in newspapers and magazines? I would like the hon. member for Abitibi to tell me about that waste of money.

• (1450)

Mr. Saint-Julien: Madam Speaker, in answering the Liberal member for Carleton—Gloucester, and I was expecting that one, let us go back to the last few months. I will have to make a second political speech. It will be

short and easy. If you look at the development in Abitibi, especially in my riding, which is the largest in all ten provinces, we succeeded in implementing Canada-Quebec agreements on economic development that provide \$75 million for 4 ridings. Today there are \$14 million left out of the original contribution of \$35 million of the federal government. But I made some projects. I made a lot of projects and it is thanks to the two governments that we were able to have agreements. We had a \$100 million Canada-Quebec agreement on mining development; the Abitibi—Témiscamingue got \$24.8 million. It is not because of the Conservative members but, rather, because of the taxpayers, the contractors and those who have mining projects. We are here to serve these people. We are not here just to cut ribbons and make good speeches. We are here to take calls in our office.

This summer Employment and Immigration was short of \$1.3 million to help our students, namely those unemployed people who wanted some training, and who wanted to study and complete their high school. Our government was able to find that money thanks to the Quebec Minister of State for Employment and Immigration. We solved the problem.

Since the hon. member referred to food, let me say that the day after the referendum I turned the first sod for a food co-op, a \$4.1 million project. I can tell you that we are building with the Crees in Val-d'Or a food and distribution centre. This is a \$5.4 million project that will create 20 jobs.

Talking about bad management, my friend is a member of the public accounts committee. But what is taking place right now with the public accounts? They are just finding out that money was wasted on CIDA programs, on programs and projects that go back 10 years. We always find out about the bad news five or six years later.

If we talk about development it is because it is important to us. We work and we try to find solutions. He talked about the Business Development Centre that helps preserve 89 jobs. Our government has spent \$2.2 million in the Val-d'Or region to help businesses and to protect jobs.