

Government Orders

An hon. member: It is the only thing they have made since they have been in power.

Mr. Rodriguez: Look what the government did. It squeezed, taxed, purged, bled and gouged until now we have an inflation rate of less than 2 per cent. It is a very successful operation but the patient is dying.

We have wrestled inflation to the ground and it is less than 2 per cent, which means there is no growth going on. Yet we are playing these little games with Bill C-21, telling Canadians: "See, look, we are responding to what you said." We know that 11 per cent of you said: "Well at least if you are going to put a GST on, it should be used to reduce the deficit". That is the 11 per cent you know.

I am hearing the Ayn Rand from the Conservative Party saying something. She should get up and make a speech. The "Dorothy Rand" of the Conservative Party should get up and make a speech. I have never known her to be speechless.

An hon. member: Very right wing.

Mr. Rodriguez: There they are, playing with Bill C-21 because their 11 per cent says to them: "We will accept the GST if you put it into deficit reduction." Remember, the operating accounts of this government run a surplus and that means every year this government takes in \$11 to \$14 billion more than it spends.

Mrs. Dobbie: Good for us.

Mr. Rodriguez: It is the interest.

Mr. Barrett: The interest?

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, that is right. But in fact, because the interest rates are kept high, and I said at the start that we can drop those interest rates another 1 to 2 percentage points, and it would reduce the deficit, but I do not see how this is doing anything at all to alleviate people's problems.

In fact interest rates have to come down. You cannot escape it by saying: "Well we do not interfere with John Crow. He is independent."

It is an interesting fact that John Crow is more popular in economic circles in Europe than Brian Mulroney. Did you not know that? They love him. He walks on water. They hold him up. They love him. Why? Because they can trust that he will stay the course, keep those interest rates high, keep the Canadian dollar high, so all of the international casino gamblers can come here and play

the "Rantier" economy in Canada. We do not need to legalize casinos in any province, they can play them right here on the money markets.

Mr. Barrett: Pay for their villas in Switzerland.

Mr. Rodriguez: That is right. That is the farce of it all. They love this guy Crow in Europe. They think he is the best thing since sliced bread.

Mr. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): They crow about him.

• (1400)

Mr. Rodriguez: Finance ministers can come and go. Prime Ministers can come and go, but keep Dr. John. Okay? Keep him there. Keep the crow flying. That is right. This is the result of it, so this government ends up just fiddling around the edges. It is playing shell games, smoke and mirrors, now you see it now you don't.

In conclusion, I want to say that this government cannot escape its responsibility. You can try to fool some of the people some of the time but that other 89 per cent you cannot fool. They are going to come back to haunt this Tory government.

I appeal to all the Tories in the back benches, at least in their self-interest to get back here. You cannot get back here if you keep supporting these cockamamie ideas that come out of your front benches. I am saying to all of you, and I know you are not here but you are watching me, all those Tories who are good friends of mine in the back benches: Come down to the House.

An hon. member: Explain yourself.

Mr. Rodriguez: I am going to explain myself.

An hon. member: You are a real Christian.

Mr. Rodriguez: I try to do missionary work among the unconverted.

An hon. member: I know that.

Mr. Rodriguez: I know that I have good friends in the back benches of the Tory caucus and I want to say to them it is time they started exerting some influence on what the front bench is doing to them.

It is bills like these that keep you mired at 11 per cent. It is the lack of any kind of affirmative action with respect to the economy of this country, bringing interest rates down, kick-starting the economy with the municipal infrastructure, refurbishing the municipal infrastructure. That seems to me where we have to go.