

Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act (No. 2)

Canadians want to cast their vote for a party which can bring some order and policy and programs. They want a party that knows where it's going.

That is not what they got, Mr. Speaker. The Government and the Party opposite does not know where it is going. It has no order or policies or programs. The public only knows that that Party is going down, that it has stabbed the public in the back and has gone back on every one of its solemn commitments.

Mr. Lang: There will be some stabbing in the back going on in Winnipeg.

Mr. Crosbie: If the Hon. Member for Kitchener will listen, he will discover why he will be defeated so abjectly in the next election.

Mr. Lang: You said that in the last election and yet I am here.

Mr. Crosbie: At the bottom of page 2, the Prime Minister said:

Our program for the 1980s consists of five major commitments:

This was from the gentleman leading the Liberal Party who had said that our budget and our program was so dastardly for the Canadian people. Looking back now, the Canadian people remember that program with fondness. All over the country statues are being put up to me, in honour of my budget. As I go around the country I am ashamed to see so many of them.

Mr. LeBlanc: It is a shame!

Mr. Crosbie: That was the Hon. Minister, formerly of fish, now of public works.

There were five major commitments, Mr. Speaker. The first was:

(1) to manage more rigorously the nation's finances in order to make more effective use of the taxpayers' money.

The deficit is now \$23.5 billion so I will not go into that. The second one was:

(2) to achieve energy security at a fair price for all Canadians.

Ugh! A fair price for all Canadians? The price of energy has doubled in the last two years. The next one reads:

(3) to develop industrial policies that will provide jobs—

Imagine! With 1.6 million out of work the Government is going to provide jobs. That one goes on:

—spur growth, and increase Canadian ownership and control of the economy.

What is left of the economy, Mr. Speaker? That is the one thing they have done—increased Canadian ownership and control of the economy. There is damn little of the economy left. What is the good of an economy that is all Canadian owned when there is no economy left? We are reduced to building popsicle sticks. Number four reads:

(4) to build greater economic strength in each region of that country as the basis for overall Canadian prosperity.

They put the boots to Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, they pushed Newfoundland down to its worst unemployment rate yet.

Point five is the relevant point, Mr. Speaker, I know you are cringing in your chair because you think I am not being relevant enough. It reads as follows:

(5) to enhance the security of the individual by helping those who most need assistance.

This was the fifth great point of the Liberal platform of January and February, 1980—"to enhance the security of the individual by helping those who most need assistance." There it is, people of Canada. I fool you not. It is in black and white, right on your TV screen. That was the promise. What are we doing today? We are voting on a Bill to take away indexing from former public servants and employees of this country who were promised it and who contributed to it. This is called enhancing the security of those individuals by helping those who most need assistance.

Let us go further with this six page document. I cannot go over it all because I do not have the time. On page five this appears:

This party will not simply stand by and let the recession come. We will fight it and overcome it.

They even knew the recession was coming. They promised to fight it and overcome it. I ask backbenchers opposite who meekly and blindly vote for everything this Government proposes, if they have seen any recession being fought and overcome during the last two and a half years. They have not. The worst recession is raging in the country since the 1930s, and it will be worse than that shortly, in my opinion. The Prime Minister claimed that the Liberals were going to lower unemployment and would use every economic tool to do so. Every day we can see on the benches opposite the economic tools the Government is using. On page six of this document this appears:

Fifth, the Liberal Party commits itself to enhancing the dignity and security of individual Canadians.

Hon. gentlemen opposite will get up and cheer and clap at the next Liberal convention when the Prime Minister says, "We commit ourselves to enhancing the dignity and security of individual Canadians". That is why there are 1.6 million unemployed. We do not give a continental damn about them, now that we are in power. We think they are going to forget it before the next election. That is why we put the blocks to the people who are on old age pensions. That is why we stopped indexing their pensions. That is why we have done the same to the crowd who get the Family Allowances. It is all because we are dedicated to "enhancing their dignity and security", and they cannot have dignity and security as long as they have incomes.

That is the new Liberal reasoning, Mr. Speaker.—you cannot have dignity and security as long as you have income. That is the principle of the legislation that is before the House.

Listen to this, Mr. Speaker, although I will excuse you if it makes you heave. On page six we find this: