

She spoke of the ERDAs, the regional development agreements, that we are negotiating with the provinces today.

**Mr. McGuire:** Where are they now?

**Mr. Thompson:** They will be signed, as they always have been. They have been very generous to the provinces in the past. In fact, most all the provincial Governments in Atlantic Canada will give credit to the federal Government for having transferred those moneys to the provinces to allow them to run a balanced ledger. Everyone in the House, regardless of side, understands the importance of the ERDAs. They will be signed.

The Member from South West Nova offers no alternatives. She and the Members of her Party are devoid of alternatives. They can criticize as they like. We are trying to deal with some very real problems left to us by her Government.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member for Carleton—Charlotte comes from the other side of the Bay of Fundy. People from my area know that area well for many reasons.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Hon. Member that in 1984 the public debt was \$68 billion. In the four years of economic influence by the Conservatives that figure increased to \$191.5 billion.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** I said in my speech that the Government had the best economic times. The Hon. Member was not here from 1980 to 1984 when the rate of inflation went up as a result of what had happened in the 1970s because of high energy prices.

**Mr. Vincent:** Because of your bad policies.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** We will see who had bad policies. Just wait. In the long term we will see who had bad policies. Members opposite rode with a Minister of Finance who said that we will have new economic growth. The reality is that if he had not put the biggest tax grab on Canadians, a grab of \$3.7 billion in the last Budget, the deficit would be the same as it was when he first came into office, a deficit of \$34.2 billion. That is the reality. The biggest tax grab as well as the interest rate policy of the Bank of Canada will put the Government and Canada into, if not a depression, at least a recession. The Hon. Member for Carleton—

### *Borrowing Authority*

Charlotte represents the same type of people as I represent. They are ordinary Canadians who make their living from natural resources in their areas.

As we very clearly saw with the west coast coalition today, yesterday, and the day before, these people cannot live without the ability to process their fish. They cannot live on the West Coast in those fishing villages without being able to process their fish. Yet that is viewed as a violation of the Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. We want to protect the jobs of our fishermen who fish in our own waters as well as jobs on shore. I think it is atrocious that the Government kneels to the United States.

**Mr. Parent:** Madam Speaker, it would seem to me that the Hon. Member who spoke prior to my colleague still has not got used to the fact that his Government has been in power now for in excess of four years. Sooner or later he and members of the Government will have to take responsibility for some of their own actions.

**Mr. Thompson:** We will take the responsibility for employment and the wealth of the country.

**Mr. Parent:** The Hon. Member had his chance to say what he had to say, which was not much, I will admit, but now I think he should have the courtesy of listening to what I have to say.

**Mr. Thompson:** Inaccuracies.

**Mr. Parent:** I am addressing my hon. colleague, the Member from Nova Scotia. I visited Summerside recently. My colleague did not address, at least in depth, the issue there. I wonder if she might make a comment on the closing of the Canadian Forces bases in the Maritime provinces, especially in terms of the jobs that will be lost there, as well as with respect to the economic impact those closures will have on the people in the surrounding areas. I do not mean just the military. I am talking about ordinary Canadians, if you will, Madam Speaker, from the Maritimes who are trying the best they can to make a living and to help build Canada with the rest of us. Perhaps my colleague could address herself to that.

**Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova):** Madam Speaker, because of redistribution I do not represent Barrington any more. I feel sorry for the Member from South Shore. It must be very hard for him to see that base close after so many years.