

POLITICAL PARTIES

CRITICISM OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLICIES

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, where will the isolationist policies of the NDP end, and on how many international obligations will the NDP turn their backs?

First, Canadians heard the NDP policy that they would pull out of NATO and pull out of NORAD. NATO has been the expression of collective western defence since 1949, a multilateral deterrent that provides a stable framework for the management of superpower relations across Europe and the Atlantic.

As French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said this week: "Isolationism is not desirable for any country in this era".

This week during the Ontario election, the NDP Leader said that an NDP provincial Government would pay up to 40 per cent more for Canadian-made goods over imports and require hospitals, school boards and libraries to do the same, at substantial public expense.

Recently, another isolationist policy emerged from the well-known NDP strategist, Gerald Caplan. He advocates Canada should withdraw from the Group of Seven industrial nations and presumably would have Canada forfeit its hard-won position as a member of the G-7 Finance Ministers as well.

This fortress or bunker mentality emerging from the collective minds of the NDP leaders needs to be seriously understood by Canadians. The NDP's true international allies are starting to emerge. Yesterday the Soviet news agency Tass accused Chirac of "harsh attacks on Canada's New Democratic Party" and also said he had accused the NDP of "dangerous neutrality".

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria).

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THE ADMINISTRATION

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will mark the third anniversary of the election of the Tory Government. If one word can be used to summarize these three years, my choice would be "disastrous".

Time constraints would not permit me to enumerate all of the blunders of the Government, but I am willing to give it a try. Ministers have resigned, were fired, or demoted. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has given new meaning to the word "patronage", making it a relative expression. There were thousands of appointments, so many that we have lost count.

Two banks have gone under, for the first time in 63 years. There has been abuse of power, conflict of interest, criminal

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charges, unprecedented waste of taxpayers' dollars for the lifestyle of the rich and famous, such as the Prime Minister, his friends and cronies.

This scandal-ridden Government will be remembered as the worst Government in the history of Canada. Luckily, time is running out and the country will once again, very soon, have the opportunity to elect a good, efficient, honest Liberal Government to replace this awful regime. It will do so under the distinguished leadership of the Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner).

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

TAX REFORM

TAX ON FOOD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Canadians have a long memory. This Government got elected by promising lower taxes. Yet, after three years of this Conservative Government, on average a Canadian family pays \$1,000 in additional taxes every year. In spite of all that the Minister of Finance is still talking about taxing food.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, he told the House he wanted to consult Canadians. The one thing I can tell him is that Canadians did tell me how they feel about this issue, and they do not want a tax on food.

I would ask the Deputy Prime Minister why is the Government hiding behind this so-called consultation when it knows full well that Canadians do not want a food tax?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I thought that yesterday the Minister of Finance quite accurately outlined the process of tax reform and the necessity of tax reform. I think he also dealt with the suggestions of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition with respect to a tax on food. He said very categorically, as reported at page 8700 of *Hansard*:

Let me make it absolutely clear. There is no proposal in this document or any other document in Canada to tax food. That is a fact.

The right hon. gentleman says he speaks on behalf of all Canadians, who suggest that there should not be a tax on food. I note that he is on record as stating that there should be a consumption tax. Most normal Canadians consume food, so I would assume that the right hon. gentleman is, in fact, advocating a tax on food.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): This side of the House will not tolerate a tax on food.