

is calling for a reduced deficit and restraint in public expenditures.

If hon. members will recall, it was a year ago today that they had an opportunity, if they had put their heads together, to stay in office. They ought to get their heads together in their economic thinking and discover whether they want more spending, less spending, a greater deficit or a lesser deficit. Because you cannot have a lesser deficit by launching new spending programs, as advocated by the hon. member.

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FINANCE

HIGH INTEREST RATES—ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I noticed the Prime Minister clapping at the reference to "a year ago today". I correct the Minister of Finance; it is a year ago tomorrow.

An hon. Member: A year ago today.

Mr. Knowles: A year ago tonight was the Liberal party.

Mr. Broadbent: A year ago today the Prime Minister, then the leader of the opposition, expressed support for a motion which condemned the then Conservative government for its high interest rate policy. Does the Prime Minister remember that he promised during the campaign "not only to deal with interest rate policy, but to bring interest rates lower". Since interest rates are now 2.5 percentage points higher than they were when the Liberals voted against the Conservatives, what plans does the government have in mind to live up to its election promises, or does the Prime Minister plan just to sit there and completely doublecross the people of Canada who voted for him?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I answered this very question the other day. I told the hon. member that I had no recollection of that statement or the context of it. I asked him if he could perhaps send it over to me and I will refer to it.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, the quotation is from the *Toronto Star*. I would have thought the Prime Minister's staff, which is reasonably substantial, would have brought it to his attention by this time. The quotation is there. The people of Canada know how the Liberals voted a year ago. They know the Prime Minister promised to do something about interest rates.

Since the Prime Minister was talking about changing priorities on food the other day, and given the fact that Canadians still want to own their homes and that mortgage rates are now 17 per cent to 20 per cent, I ask the Prime Minister what specific measures does he have in mind for Canadians in terms of their human priorities in regard to being able to buy a home? Alternatively, is he saying to the people of Canada now that they have to give up the dream of buying their own home?

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the hon. member says the statement was in the *Toronto Star*. I say it was not in our election platform and it was not part of the statement I made based on the election platform. We did not promise that we would lower interest rates and I challenge hon. members to point to any section of our program which said that we would.

Mr. Crosbie: Why don't you do something about it anyway?

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister was interviewed during the campaign by the *Toronto Star*; I will send a copy of the article to him.

Mr. Trudeau: You should have done it the other day when I asked.

Mr. Broadbent: He may not consider that a commitment, but most other parties consider when they have an interview during a campaign which is published in the largest daily in Canada that that is part of the campaign. But the Prime Minister has a rather perverse view about what the truth actually is, and we all know that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Since bankruptcies are increasing, since farmers' debt loads are increasing and since the cost of living for Canadians coast to coast is going up, does the Prime Minister have any intention of telling the man, who is sitting to his right, to bring in a budget, which recognizes the disastrous state the Canadian economy is in, and do something about it?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party must be joking. There was a budget brought down just about a month and a half ago.

Mr. Crosbie: It was a joke, and a bad one.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF THE MINISTER OF POLICE AFFAIRS FOR NIGERIA

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of members in the House to the presence in our gallery of the Hon. E. C. Osammor, who is the Minister of Police Affairs for Nigeria.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!