

smacks of a pay-off to citizens and is an insult to our intelligence.

I wonder if you would care to comment on that, along with the statement you have just made that they are getting it in the neck? I conclude from this quote that they are more profoundly hurt by the insult than by anything else, and I would like to have your views on that matter.

Senator Gigantès: Well, obviously that letter is from a fine Canadian citizen, one of those I was talking about in the majority who do not think of Canada simply as a tax system but who love this country and who do, quite properly, feel insulted when this government opposite, well known for its addiction to manipulative techniques of advertising, tries them once again. They use techniques which are best illustrated, if you like, by the Prime Minister himself. Remember the sacred trust? The pensions of the old are a sacred trust. However, what does he do as soon as he gets into office? He tries to de-index those pensions. It took that wonderfully courageous old Canadian lady telling him face to face on the steps of Parliament what a prevaricating, mendacious departure it was from the path of rectitude for him to retreat. He did not retreat immediately, but when the polls showed him that he had to retreat, he did so, and it was not done out of conscience, regret or shame for having been so manipulative.

● (1020)

After all, this is the man who shook Joe Clark's hand and said, "I'm right behind you"—with a knife which he planted in Mr. Clark's back. I have never forgotten that. Even when I have disagreed with statements made by Mr. Clark, I have never had a doubt in my mind that he cares about Canada. I cannot say the same about the Prime Minister or many other Tories. I trust in and believe that Mr. Clark cares about Canada. I do not feel that way about Brian Mulroney.

Why is the Prime Minister's standing at 3 per cent in Alberta? Because the people of Alberta are not fools. Why is he generally at 14 per cent in the country? Quebeckers are loyal to him temporarily and he is benefitting from a wave of lying propaganda on behalf of the separatists who see him as a very precious tool for achieving their ends. After all, when will they again get a Canadian Prime Minister who is prepared to accept and use their vocabulary when misleading the people of Quebec. Of course they support him. Daniel Latouche, Pierre Bourgeault and company, and many other groups support Mulroney. Who else have they got to support? He is their best tool, their best implement. He has delivered. If Quebec did not have separatists dominating its media, Mulroney would be at 3 per cent even there. The people of Quebec are being systematically misinformed, deliberately misinformed, and as soon as they realize that this is misinformation, the polls will shift and Mulroney will plummet even in that province.

It will not be the type of failure that your publishing venture suffered, Senator Simard. You are no one to talk to anyone about publishing, that is for sure. We would never accept your advice on it because all it would lead to would be catastrophe. We heard yesterday it was federal help and cooperation that helped your province when you were Minister of Finance. If

[Senator Corbin.]

you had not been helped out of the hole, your province would have been in terrible trouble when you were Minister of Finance.

The Business Council on National Issues produced a four-page insert for the press at the bidding of the Mulroney government when it was losing the battle for public opinion. Perhaps that was not the most effective piece of propaganda on their part. There were letters written by chief executive officers to their staff, telling them they would lose their jobs if the free trade deal does not go through, which was the opposite of the truth. They have lost their jobs because the trade deal went through. They scared poor people. The Business Council on National Issues produced this insert in which there was the infamous questions and answers, a concoction of lies. The most striking one of all was one in which Tom d'Aquino, who wrote that dreadful document, stated: "We will use the Free Trade Agreement as a pretext to ask for a reduction in social services". The answer was, of course, no. The minute the Free Trade Agreement was signed, Mr. Thibeault, President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Tom d'Aquino, President of the Business Council on National Issues, and all their ilk, said that we have to cut the social services. What does that mean? It means cutting the pensions of the old, cutting unemployment insurance and hitting people when their corporate citizen bosses have decided to take the money and put it in Mexico or wherever, and throw thousands of families into the streets. Of course, we must cut their unemployment insurance at that time.

That is why, Senator Corbin, the person who wrote to you does not believe what this government says and is insulted that the government should think that it can once more fool the people of Canada. You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. Of course, if you are a congenital liar, you think that you can, but it finally catches up with you and you pay for it. What is unfortunate is that it cannot catch up with Mulroney until two years from now, and those two years are enough for the country to self-destruct through his terrible, awful, absurd—

[Translation]

Senator Chaput-Rolland, you can go complain to Quebec journalists. I do not have to ask you to refrain from telling the truth. You do not tell it usually. Go write something on the Wailing Wall, Senator.

Senator Hébert: You have scared her, she is gone.

Senator Gigantès: No, I did not scare her, I hope she will say in an article or an interview that she hates me more than you. Since she said that you are the one she hates most amongst the Liberals, you are unsufferable!

[English]

The government concedes the regressivity of the goods and services tax, but it argues that this regressivity can be offset by refundable sales tax credits for people at the lower income levels.