

However, we on this side of the House also have some rights. We are exercising those rights today, one of which is to show the Canadian people that this Budget is opposite to what the Government promised it would do. The Conservatives did not say that they would reduce the Budget by cutting back on medicare, reducing medical research or cutting back the budget of the National Research Council, as my hon. colleague, the Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) showed today.

The Government did not promise that it would balance the budget by cutting back on medicare, after encouraging the provinces to go into medicare a decade ago on the basis that the Government would support them.

The Government said it would balance the budget by finding the waste and extravagance of the Liberal Government. After two years of looking for waste and extravagance in the former Liberal Government, it seems the Conservatives are stuck with passing the buck to the provinces by cutting back programs which are among the most popular, necessary and just programs that we have in Canada. The Government had to resort to that action in its attempt to meet those budget promises.

As far as waste and extravagance is concerned, I would like to know—

[Translation]

How can a boy from Baie-Comeau pay \$1,200 a night for hotel accommodation in New York? And how can he pay half a million dollars for a one-week stay in Paris? That is what I would like to know—

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Stupid!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please.

Mr. Kaplan: Not only that, but how can he do that after promising during the election campaign that he would run a thrifty Government?

[English]

He gave the Canadian people the impression that his background prepared him for restraint and that that was the colour he would put on the Government. We have seen the patronage appointments by the Government, we have seen its style of living, and the waste, extravagance and luxurious way in which it operates. If the Budget is going to be cut, it will be cut on the backs of someone else.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Côté).

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member—if all the documents pertaining to access to information on the previous Government had not disappeared— would have the nerve and courage to table the expenditures of the former Government, of the old gang of mandarins, right before our television viewers and the people

in the galleries. Would the Hon. Member have the courage to do that?

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Everybody knows about your expenses!

Mr. Kaplan:—if I may have the floor—

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): We know, and everybody knows!

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to try to answer. I do not know the figures myself, but the Conservative Government did promise to do away with such excessive expenses. I have no idea whether that was the case, I do not have the bills of the former Government.

But the one thing I do know is that this Government has them. It has those bills. And when it has them, it makes them public. Since Government Members have not tabled the comparable figures of the previous Government, the figures they must have because bills of this kind do not vanish, I say that since there are no such bills which the Government could make public, I come to the only possible conclusion that their expenses are much higher than those of the former Government, otherwise they would have made them public. That is my own conclusion.

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a few figures about transport. Since the election of this Government in 1984, the use of airplanes has decreased by 22 per cent compared with the last year under the Liberal Government, which represent a savings of \$2.5 million since 1984. If the Hon. Member wants figures, I can give him some.

I also have comparative figures on the hours of use. In 12 and a half months, the Liberals used an average of 2.65 hours in flying time a month, while the Progressive Conservative party has used 205 hours of flying time a month in 19 and a half months. If the former Minister and sad new Member wants figures, I can give them to him. The average number of flights each month for the previous Government was 54 and it is 42 for the new Government.

I therefore find it hard to understand how these people can say that there has been an increase in expenditures when it has been proven statistically and openly in the public accounts that the previous Liberal Government used Government airplanes shamefully and that, with our desire for change, we have reduced expenditures by 22 per cent since our election.

I would like the Hon. Member to comment these facts.

[English]

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I may have a different understanding of the subject than the Member opposite, but I never considered the use of government airplanes as an extravagance. I think that the government airplanes are there for