

put in order bills that had been introduced by a previous Government and that were gathering dust.

And it was because of the genuine concerns of the private sector that we decided to put the place back in order. I would therefore thank the Hon. Member opposite for illustrating, in a much more experienced way than I could do, that the aim was to put our house back in order.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** I want to remind the House that there are approximately two minutes left for questions and comments.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, may I say this in reply to the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom). The Hon. Member said that one must look at these tax measures as one package and that they cannot be separated. I am interested in one particular tax measure, the one which increased the federal sales tax in order to raise a billion dollars. That tax measure was an issue during the campaign when the Hon. Member's esteemed Leader, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), took the position that he would not put that measure into effect.

It seems to me that the Hon. Member should at least be principled enough to respond to that question. Is he in favour of that increase to take \$1 billion from the spending ability of Canadian taxpayers? Is he in favour of that particular measure, yes or no?

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** I would remind the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance that he has only a few seconds left.

**Mr. Lanthier:** Fine. I repeat, this is not as a package, it is as a whole. But let me say that this has already been answered. Yes, I support that tax, on the one hand, but within a series of reductions that would stem from elsewhere. Agreed? I think I have answered. I believe so, yes, because I supported the Bill.

**Mr. Nystrom:** And you are taxing the people. Did he say the same thing during the election campaign?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order, please. The period for questions and comments is now ended. The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased with this opportunity to take part in the debate on Bill C-12.

Mr. Speaker, I was listening very carefully this morning to the speech by the Hon. Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall) and to the comments made earlier this afternoon by the Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier). I wonder whether we were running in the same election, Mr. Speaker, because I think my recollection of the recent election campaign is some-

what different from the description given by the Member for LaSalle.

For instance, I remember that the Progressive Conservative Party made 338 promises in this campaign. But I do not remember that at any time during the campaign anyone said: Well, ladies and gentlemen, we made promises, but we will not be able to keep them. I do not remember anyone saying that during the campaign. In fact, when the Leader of my Party said there was no way the promises being made by the Progressive Conservative Party could be kept, the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said very clearly that of course, with the new spirit of confidence that would reign in Canada, and so forth, it would be able to keep the 338 promises he had made.

I certainly do not remember, or else maybe I forgot, Mr. Speaker, the present Prime Minister saying during the campaign: Ladies and gentlemen, we must realize that the promises I made cannot be kept. If he did, I stand corrected by the Hon. Member or other Conservative Members in the House. But I do not remember hearing this during the campaign. In fact, I discussed it with some of my constituents, and they do not remember it either.

Mr. Speaker, earlier there was some reference, and I believe it was the Hon. Member for LaSalle who mentioned this, to putting Canadians back to work. I think that is the expression he used in his speech. However, I examined the Expenditure and Program Review which proposes to cut tens of thousands of jobs in my riding and elsewhere in Canada, and I do not see any reference to where Canadians will be put back to work.

My constituents of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell employed in the Public Service do not at all feel as if they were being put back to work now. They rather feel as if they were being dismissed or laid off by a Government which told them quite the opposite only a few months ago. So they feel that they have been conned, and rightly so. And you, Mr. Speaker, who are witnessing all our discussions in a very objective and non-partisan way, surely understand that what the Progressive Conservative Party wanted us to believe during the election campaign is not at all what we are seeing today.

We just heard, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) saying we should stop referring to the past. However, he himself dealt in his speech with the financial state of affairs inherited from the previous government. Well, how can one reconcile those two very different ways of thinking? You cannot say that you want to forget about the past while at the same time making reference to it every five minutes in statements and speeches. You cannot do that!

Also, that same Government which apparently wants to forget about the past is introducing in this House Bill C-12, a Bill that for the most part was introduced by the Liberal party during the last session. That is some record for a Government which apparently wants to put the past behind it