

What better evidence do we have today than the Canadian economy? Interest rates at an alarming rate are causing havoc among small and medium-sized businesses. The dollar is very high, affecting our exports to countries abroad. Inflation is creeping up at a quickened pace and, yes, there is high unemployment in the poorer regions of the country.

This is only to find that a government committed to an agenda of the Prime Minister will turn around and attempt to implement the provisions of the GST, the goods and services tax.

After two years since the last election and the four before that for a total of six, there is much to be said, but the unity of our country is in real danger. There are reasons for that, clear unequivocal reasons. The Prime Minister, in his macho way, has driven Canadians to the brink. I refer to the free trade debate. We were told one thing and now the opposite has occurred. We saw clear evidence where big business in co-operation with government of the day bought the election in 1988. There is clear evidence of that.

We had Meech Lake. I am not commenting on the substance of Meech Lake, but I am commenting on the process. Canadians were disgusted with the Prime Minister who rolled the dice, and Canada as a sovereign nation has felt the effects of that blow ever since.

**An hon. member:** We're the losers.

**Mr. Dingwall:** What about the Oka situation, when a Prime Minister of this country neglects, because of lack of caring, sends in the army without having a full and complete debate on the floor of the House of Commons?

Of course, another example which was so vivid for many of us was the Persian Gulf situation. On November 11, I had a rare opportunity to visit with one of the Legions in my constituency. The guest speaker was a gentleman who lost two brothers in the Second World War and another in the Korean War. He said: "I was only a child when that occurred and I could not understand or appreciate the anguish of my parents. But as of August this year, I now know what that anguish was all about, because my eldest son has now gone to the Persian Gulf". We were denied by the Prime Minister and the Conservative majority opposite of debating that decision on the floor of the House of Commons.

### *Government Orders*

**Some hon. members:** Shame.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Parliament was not recalled. If that is not Rambo, macho tactics by a Conservative government, I do not know what is. The answers to the unity questions of this country, and I say this sincerely, I regret to say will now not be found in the appointment of a bumbling, eccentric bureaucrat and his citizens' forum. It will not be. We have clear evidence which would lead any reasonable individual to concur with my conclusion.

When historians come to look at the tail end of the century that Laurier said would belong to Canada, they are likely to be struck by the extent of the damage done to the social fabric and political institutions of the country by this government.

The Prime Minister has broken faith with the Canadian people and Canadians have lost hope and faith in themselves. It is a government that fudged the truth about free trade, trains, taxes, family allowances and old age pensions. It is a government that rolled the dice; a government that gambled recklessly on the country's political future.

My leader, the Hon. Jean Chrétien, and the Liberal Party are committed to a better government with a vision of a fair, just and a compassionate nation.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Our goals include the breaking of the poverty barrier for one million Canadian families; putting a decent child care system in place; providing every young Canadian with adequate training for a job; developing a fairer immigration policy; ensuring our farmers and our fishermen stay in business; building new homes for medium and low income families; transforming our industries to make them competitive in the new age of technology; guaranteeing our growing senior citizens population decent, healthful lives; and keeping Canada and Canadians together.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans said that Canadians are not stupid. I concur with that. Canadians are not stupid. That is why, today, they are at 15 per cent in the polls in some regions of this country and that is why in some regions of the country, they are much lower because they know that when it comes to children and poverty, free trade, the Canadian economy and the unity of this country, they may mouth the rhetorical expressions of individuals who believe in a strong and united Canada, but their actions are completely opposite. They