

Let us look at some of the reasons for this lack of trust. First, there is really a crisis in this country in many areas and it is clearly the Liberal government's fault. In the last election I remember the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) stumping the country in his arrogant fashion. I use that term reluctantly, but when people were saying there were too many unemployed in this country, the Prime Minister said to them that if the unemployed wanted to work, they should simply get off their butts. Then when farmers were having problems in this country, the Prime Minister said that farmers are nothing but chronic bitches. In my province people are very concerned about the dangers of nuclear power. The Prime Minister said, "You will get nuclear power whether you like it or not."

In the 1979 election the Prime Minister and his party got their just deserts. They were turfed out with vigour. Had the Leader of the Conservative party been anyone else, they would have been slammed in with a majority. Nevertheless, we campaigned after the fall of the Conservative government in 1980. I remember clearly the candidate in my riding. The issue was again leadership, with the Conservatives on the one hand saying "Our leader is there but he has some liabilities", but the Liberals saying "Our leader does not count any more. We now have a committee in the party and it is going to back to the backbenchers in making policy and giving guidance to the government."

That does not exist any more. Clearly the statement the other day is the continuation of the old Trudeau. When the announcement was made that food prices were dramatically rising, interest rates were rising, the cost of housing, the cost of clothing and the cost of food are going up, low-income Canadians and senior citizens are in trouble, people asked: What will the government do about this? Clearly promises were made in the Speech from the Throne that the government would protect those people. The Prime Minister's answer was, of course, as we know, that they can rearrange their budget. But most of the income of most Canadian families is spent on food, clothing and shelter, three items. That probably takes up all of the inadequate income of low-income Canadians or senior citizens. I would challenge him to say which one of those items should be cut, because that is all that is available to cut.

I really resent the suggestion that the proposals made here are extremist, that they are whipping up hysteria. I resent that because what we are having is a difference in perception. They do not see what is happening in this country; they do not see the crisis, but we do.

**An hon. Member:** There are only two Liberals left over there, so how could they?

**Mr. Skelly:** I suspect that the Minister of Finance simply packed his bags and left. That is the kind of interest he has.

Let us take a look at unemployment for a moment. In November it was mentioned that 787,000 Canadians were out of work. They do not count all the Canadians who want to work if opportunities are available. There is a projection of 1,026,000 unemployed. That is too many. We have put for-

ward a number of suggestions in the House and on the campaign trail. If those are not acceptable, we challenge the government to come up with some suggestions and not just sit there. One of the labour surveys was saying that 44 per cent of the people are no longer looking for work. All we are saying is that Canadians have a right to decent employment, that is all. We have put forward numerous suggestions. If they are unacceptable to the government, let us accept the principle that a Canadian has the right to a job in the country, and then let them get going with some Liberal programs that might fill the bill. If that is not a crisis, I wonder what level of unemployment the government would accept as a crisis in this area.

Let us take a look at housing. In my riding the housing situation is critical. In one of the communities where a temporary expansion is going on, people sleep in the park or in automobiles because no housing is available. Then when we make a suggestion, the Minister of State for Finance calls it extremist; he says it will ruin the country, that it is hysterical. I have heard the minister in charge of CMHC say that many people in AHOP homes are turning in the keys and giving the house back to the government. CMHC is attempting to flog off 20,000 of these homes. Mortgage rates are well up over 15 per cent now.

When I was going through my riding one day about a week ago I was looking in the paper at advertisements for the sale of homes. I found two-bedroom homes running between \$150,000 and \$200,000. It is just incredible. Vacancy rates in many of the major cities in this country are below zero. There are line-ups of people waiting for housing in places like Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon and Toronto. There are no housing units available. If we go back and look at some of the Indian communities, we find another crisis there. Half of the homes in the Indian communities do not have running water. There is an immediate need there for 11,000 new homes and 40 per cent of the housing in Indian communities needs to be replaced or substantially repaired.

What does it take to have a crisis in this country? One point which drove it home for me is when I was talking to a young woman in Victoria who was out of work. She had been out of work for some time and looking vigorously for work, but she also had no place to stay and no income on which to fall back. I asked her what she did. She told me that this forces her into a type of informal prostitution. She said, "I have to find somebody to live with. I don't like it". You guys over there are doing it. The government is creating that kind of situation in Canada. There is a dramatic shortage of housing. The situation is very serious. If that is extremism, if that is whipping up hysteria, so be it, but that situation exists in native communities and it must be dealt with. That is the purpose of the debate tonight.

With regard to small businesses, I really have trouble differentiating between these two groups here. As much as we are alleged to be in bed with the Liberals—the Tories are forever accusing us of it—when I see the voting on the Bank Act supporting the banks, it is the Liberal party and the Conserva-