

Much of the controversy stemmed from the fact that the previous Conservative government did not seek input from residents of Kitchener's Doon-Pioneer Park prior to site selection. This Liberal government has made a serious effort to correct the wrongdoings of our predecessor.

The hon. Solicitor General of Canada reopened the file into the Kitchener prison project shortly after the election. He provided the residents of Kitchener with an opportunity to voice their concerns at Thursday's meeting, something that my constituents have been asking for since the site was announced.

The residents of Doon-Pioneer Park and I would like to thank the minister for taking the time to listen. We all hope that his final decision will be a reflection of what was said at Thursday's meeting.

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WORLD SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, the world short-track speed skating team championships were held this past weekend in Cambridge, Ontario.

Félicitations à Nathalie Lambert, Sylvie Daigle, Isabelle Charest, Christine Boudrias and Angela Cutrone whose performances assured Canada the women's team title.

[Translation]

On the men's side, the Canadian team made up of Frédéric Blackburn, Mark Gagnon, Derrick Campbell, Denis Mouraux and Stephen Gough came in second, behind the South Korean team. Congratulations!

This was the last competition in Canada for Sylvie Daigle and Nathalie Lambert, two of the Canadian short track speed skating team's stars.

[English]

Sylvie and Nathalie have both had exceptional careers and are to be commended for their dedication to their sport.

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THE ECONOMY

Mr. Jag Bhaduria (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, due to very difficult economic times in Canada many Canadians have been forced to practise fiscal restraint and responsibility.

Canadians from all regions of this country have responded by tightening their belts and going without many necessities they could otherwise have. They have done this even though many others have continued to live high on the hog.

There are many examples of where fiscal restraint has not been practised to the same degree. One such example is the

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recent lavish farewell functions to honour the outgoing Governor of the Bank of Canada. Almost \$30,000 was spent to bid farewell to John Crow. It is outrageous that Canadians are expected to foot the bill for this lavish spending.

Mr. Crow spent many years preaching restraint but when it comes time to depart it seems like one does not practise what one preaches.

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THE BUDGET

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, today a splash of ice cold reality was flung into the government's face with the abrupt increase in interest rates which will inevitably send a shudder through the investment and consumer communities.

The international money lenders have sent an early warning signal to the federal government by increasing interest rates and placing pressure on the Canadian dollar. The budget confidence appears to have lasted only two months.

Did the government address the issue of unemployment in this budget? No. Did the government make a realistic revenue estimate in the budget? No. Did the government build higher interest rates into its estimates of government costs next year? No.

When rates jump and the dollar falls, the federal deficit will jump and interest rates will be forced up. As a Chinese proverb says, unless we change directions we will likely end up where we are headed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

● (1415)

[Translation]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Without waiting for the results of its foreign policy review, the government has already made its decision. It has made a 180 degree turn and set a course that is guided by strictly commercial interests, thereby turning its back on protecting human rights.

I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he would confirm that his government intends to promote Canada's trading relations at the expense of human rights. I also want to ask him whether on his trip in China, he will allude to the oppressive policies of this dictatorial regime only in very polite terms and in private, on the weak-kneed advice of his Minister of Foreign Affairs.