

not have to be accountable to anyone, make any kind of outrageous promise that you wish, because you will never have to take office, you never will take office, you never have to honour those pledges to the Canadian people.

The people of Canada are not satisfied, I agree with you totally and that is borne out in the statistics in terms of our popularity. I go back to a term heard from time to time in regard to elections. A famous Canadian tells us this one from time to time: "There is nothing like a lynching to focus the mind."

It goes back to what I am referring to, their lead in the polls. What is going to happen when the Canadian people go to the polls is they will sort through all of this. They say things are not good and things are not good in Europe or the U.S. and President-elect Clinton is struggling to make things better in the U.S. What they will figure out is there are no magic answers because if there were magic answers we would wave the wand and everything would be perfect.

We are caught in an economic trap in a sense because government debt load is the highest in recorded history. The private sector debt load, the corporate side, is the highest in the history of the country and consumer debt is the highest in the history of the country. That is pretty well the same in all parts of the world. That is what makes it so difficult for us to get out from underneath this terrible burden.

We can be assured of one thing, one thing that we will not do, and that is we are not going to borrow money to solve the problem because history simply proves that does not work. It simply does not work and we are not going to do it.

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was quite interested when the hon. member was talking about the NDP policies. We agree on that. Not all of the blame is to fall on the government's shoulders. The Government of Ontario takes a big part of that blame. There is no question about it. The member is quite right when he talked about the failure of the NDP governments in Ontario and in most of the provinces that have leaders who are NDP. Their policies have failed. We have seen more and more plants closing on a daily basis in those provinces.

I was quite interested when he indicated that the NDP's way out of the recession is by printing more

money. That is very interesting and I would like to find out more about that printing machine or that way of reducing the deficit.

I am also quite interested to hear that in Ontario we have the largest ever deficit in the history of the province. I do not know about this next budget but perhaps we will have per capita in Ontario, with an NDP government, the largest deficit anywhere in the western hemisphere.

The reason I am upset about it is that lately the Government of Ontario is embarking on a mission to go after senior citizens who live in government subsidized housing. In addition to the rent that they pay, now the Government of Ontario wants to charge them extra for painting the apartment or for cleaning their windows from the outside.

• (1400)

When a government that always claims to be the friend of the people proceeds with such initiatives and when it starts taking such actions, you and I know the true picture of the NDP government and the true philosophy and policy of the NDP government, which is this: When they are in opposition they say one thing, but when they form the government they say something else. Well, that was the NDP.

In terms of the comment of the hon. member from the government side that we do not have the money so we cannot spend it, I want to share one thing with him. It takes money to make money. If you do not invest in the economy, you are not going to be able to generate revenues. That is why the Liberal policy, as it was communicated by our leader, of investing in an infrastructure is the best way in the short term to activate or kick-start the economy, in order to create jobs, in order to invest in the future, in order to help out Canadians who are struggling to make it.

I do not want to go over the past. I was not around eight or ten years ago in order to defend the track record of this ministry or that ministry. But we have a minister here, the Minister of Transport, who was a co-chair of the national task force on the infrastructure. I recall I was a municipal politician at the time. I read his report. I was pleased that he had supported at that time a call on the government to enact a tri-party agreement whereby the federal government would put in a third, the provin-