

Government Orders

What did they say about VIA Rail? They said they would support it. They cut funding back by half. Who was affected? More than 2,700 people, which means more than 2,700 families. Unemployment insurance is another interesting point. Some ministers were falling over themselves to say that they had no intention of touching this program, and what is happening now? Bill C-21—You know exactly what is going on.

Mr. Corbeil: Bill C-21 is still blocked in the Senate.

Mr. Duhamel: Thank God! We have a Senate that is trying to protect Canadians.

In addition to all that, they cut programs for women, native people, new Canadians and multiculturalism and veterans. Yes, programs for training and retraining too. We were told that we would have the best programs in the world! They were cut. They spent \$4.50 per person on the literacy program annually. Some investment in the five million Canadians who need help! Big deal! They promised to double spending on research and development. But they are slipping: there is less than before. We invest less than half what countries like Japan, the United States, Germany and France do, even if we exclude military R&D. Student aid has not changed since 1984. Not only has it not changed since 1984, but they imposed an administrative fee on the poor students who need help. They removed the subsidies for academic publications. They will impose a tax, the GST, the goods and services tax, which will hurt education.

[English]

I want to reiterate the point I was trying to make. If you look at the actions of an individual or a government, then you can determine what their beliefs, their values, their priorities are. Look at the actions of this government. The use of phrases such as "sacred trust" have no meaning any more. We have heard it so often.

Let us talk about the accord that is getting national headlines. It has now deteriorated to the point where it pits region against region and person against person. It has not at all evolved. It is not going to evolve for a long, long time, because the process has been deficient.

Let us talk about the deficit. Members of the government like to brag that they are such wonderful managers. Yet the deficit is no smaller than it was, and the debt has almost doubled during the last five years. Is that good management? Frankly, my definition of good management is very different from that.

The people in this country are frightened. When you become frightened and you worry about your future you are less tolerant, less generous and less patient than you would have been. This is what is happening to Canadians throughout this nation.

What would have happened if the government had told the truth when it went to the polls? What would have happened to the members? They would never have been elected.

Just imagine the Prime Minister standing up and saying: "I shall raise taxes 31 times, and I shall impose a goods and services tax, and I shall ensure that your taxation is at record levels".

What would have happened if the Prime Minister had said as well: "There will be no improvement on the deficit or the debt". What would have happened if he had added: "I have changed my mind. I did say in the book, *Where I Stand*, that I wanted to spend more on research and development, but I will not raise the expenditures for research and development".

What would have happened if he had said: "I will claw back old age security and family allowances, of course, as a little bonus".

What would have happened if he had said: "I will not introduce any day care program. I have decided against that too". He might have added, if he had told the truth: "And I will cut VIA Rail. I will just cut it in half initially because I think it would be too brutal to take it all away. And, as a little bonus, later on I will cut native programs, and I will cut programs for new Canadians, and I will cut funding for women's groups. Finally, I will cut education and health". Those are the statements he would have had to make if he had told the truth.

Is it any wonder that they find themselves at 17 per cent in the polls? Someone told me this morning that the Communist party of East Germany was at 15 per cent in the polls. Frankly, if the government continues to topple as it has, then it will even sink lower than the East German Communist party.