

which had five seats in the House when the Government lost by six votes.

The people of Canada rejected the Conservative Party in the 1980 election because they were taken in by the very type of statements made during the election campaign that the group opposite, which is a very small group today, made in its Throne Speech of 1980. After all, that is the issue with which we are concerned today, the failure of the Government to act on the promises it made in the Throne Speech, as well as the ones it made in the election campaign that resulted in the unfortunate resignation of the Government that we on this side formed at that time.

I might also remind the Hon. Member for Churchill that he has the wrong perspective on the process that is going on now in this Party. This Party is in the process of reaffirming the leader of this Party whom we have enjoyed for the last seven years.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I suppose we will all find out sometime in mid June whether the Conservative Party is reaffirming its previous leader, since the new leader is the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), of course. However, we have noticed that there seems to be a fair number of other Conservatives travelling throughout the country at this time saying that perhaps the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) is not the person to lead their Party. Many Canadians feel that he is not the person to lead the Party. They certainly had the opinion in February, 1980 that he was not the person to lead the country.

It is up to the Conservatives to pick their leader, but I, and I am sure our Party, will not give a blank cheque to whomever the Conservative leader is, just as we would never give a blank cheque to whomever leads the Liberal Party. We have our policies and we are proud of them. We wish to work in the House and throughout the country to promote our policies. The debate which is occurring in the House of Commons right now concerns the very fact that when the Liberals make a throne speech and announce their policies they do not follow through with them. They do not keep their promises. The most noticeable result has been that they have lost the faith of ordinary Canadians.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henri Tousignant (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is rather surprising to see the Official Opposition presenting a motion of this kind today, the same Opposition that complains and gets upset about the hardship Canadians are suffering because of this Government. They are asking for action, but today, they are wasting the time of the House by trying to put the Government on the defensive.

Here is part of the motion that was moved today by the Official Opposition, and I quote:

That this House condemns the Government for its failure to live up to the commitments made in the Speech from the Throne on April 14, 1980.

Supply

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues opposite and the representatives of the New Democratic Party have just said that they agree that this Government has not lived up to a single commitment, and Members on the Government side, like myself, we say that we have fully lived up to our commitments. So it depends a little on what side of the House one happens to be. In any case, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be denied, and I could name fifty or so commitments the Government has made and met, namely, various programs the Government has introduced and implemented. Therefore, I would be tempted to . . . A lot has been said about leadership, and the Progressive Conservatives are very busy preparing their next convention. They are terribly excited at the thought that the candidates for the leadership are going to bring about miraculous changes. They are still the same people—

Mr. Jarvis: Very quiet!

Mr. Tousignant: Very quiet indeed! They are still the same people, Mr. Speaker. I could give a brief analysis of the leadership candidates. However, I think I shall refrain, since that is not the subject of this debate. Nevertheless, speaking of leadership, I feel that demanding the resignation of a man like the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and providing as an alternative people who are not very experienced and who do not seem to have the desired ability, I think these are very rash statements on the part of the Official Opposition, and perhaps I should also include the New Democratic Party, which is always defending widows and orphans. The New Democratic Party is for and against almost everything. Sometimes they express their shock at the deficit, and the next day, they demand all kinds of costly measures which will necessarily increase the deficit. These people know they will never be in power, so it is easy for them to say just about anything.

• (1720)

Some of the Government's commitments, and I shall name only a few, were included in the words of the Right Hon. Prime Minister, in the Speech from the Throne, and I quote:

My Government will act to assist those unable to bear the burden of renegotiating their home mortgages in the present abnormal situation so that the spectre of foreclosure will be avoided.

What did we do, Mr. Speaker?

In his November 1981 budget, the Minister of Finance announced the creation of a guarantee plan under which the Government will guarantee, subject to a maximum of \$3,000 and other prescribed limits, the repayment of deferred interest to owners whose gross debt service ratios exceed 30 per cent. That was a commitment on the part of the Government and it has been fulfilled.

The Government also undertook to introduce improvements under the mortgage renewal program. The plan was extended from November 12, 1982 to December 31, 1983, and homeowners who spend more than 30 per cent of their gross income