

the unemployment rate reached record highs; we had runaway inflation and skyrocketing interest rates.

Such a situation developed because these people pursued year after year short-term budgetary policies and demonstrated a lack of responsibility and courage in the management of the State's affairs. I would not want to be too harsh on these poor Liberals, Mr. Speaker, for on two occasions already Canadians have already passed judgment on the sort of management they pursued then and still continue to propose to the Canadian people.

Now, when I consider the economic record of the past four years, I must say I find it a little more heartening. Canada has experienced sustained growth over that period. Inflation has remained stable; over a million and a half jobs were created throughout this country; the unemployment rate is much lower and the economic outlook is much brighter. Contrary to a popular belief which those who are eager to divide Canada are trying to spread, the continued economic growth I am talking about was not limited simply to Southern Ontario.

Many people want to blame Ontario for all the economic problems some regions of the country may have now, but I believe that, looking directly at the facts, you will see that over the last four years, not only Ontario but all regions of the country benefited from the economic policies put forward by the Government.

In my native province of New Brunswick, Mr. Speaker, which is considered to be one of the disadvantaged regions of the country, New Brunswick and the Atlantic region benefited from the favourable economic climate created by the policies put forward in 1984 by the Government under the Finance Minister's leadership.

Since September 1984, Mr. Speaker, unemployment in New Brunswick, where I come from, has gone from 16.3 to 12.1 per cent. My fellow New Brunswickers will say that 12.1 per cent is still too much, but it is better than 16.3 per cent and this progress was achieved with our Government's economic program.

The growth rate in New Brunswick was higher than the national average during this period. And this year again, investment is expected to increase by some 16 per cent. Admittedly, some people wonder about it because many of us on the Government side talk with satisfaction about the Government's record. We often say that we

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created many jobs and that Canada's performance is unmatched by any OECD country. So why change, if there are no problems? I think the question is legitimate. That is where the importance of putting things in perspective comes in. We must make every Canadian aware of the financial realities facing us as Canadians. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that we in Canada absolutely must change our way of seeing things because we can no longer afford the luxury of living and operating on borrowed money, as was done systematically over the last 20 years.

In his budgetary projections and his Budget speech, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) used the phrase: to borrow from the future, which has always been the approach taken by the Liberal Party, while spending like there is no tomorrow is the solution proposed by the New Democrats. However, there comes a time when Canadians the New Democrats often talk about ordinary people, about the average Canadian, about unmarried mothers who have to work and have trouble making ends meet. The people in that Opposition Party, Mr. Speaker, talk a lot about the average person. The Liberal Party does too. The Liberals talked so much about the average Canadian that when we came to power in 1984, they left us a debt of nearly \$280 billion.

In this Budget, the Minister of Finance and the Government are asking Canadians to look at the facts and face reality.

[English]

That is a sad reality. What we have been doing in the last 20 years has been literally mortgaging the future of our kids.

I have listened to Members opposite. They all seem to agree that we have a problem with the deficit. None of the solutions put forward by the Minister of Finance have been accepted or even endorsed by opposition Members.

I think one has to look at the financial picture and where the expenditures are taking place to see that this is indeed a tough job. If we Canadians cherish those social programs the way I believe we do all across Canada, I think we will have to make certain choices.

One thing is certain. For the time I am in public life I will not be an accomplice in mortgaging the future of my