

because many of us can remember sitting through that minority Parliament of 1972 to 1974 when the Prime Minister of the day, eager to be propped up, eager to stay in power, responded to every whim and every demand of the socialists to our left. That was their price for giving the Prime Minister at that time the support that he received.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: In short, Mr. Speaker, what happened during that period was that programs were put in place, ongoing expenditures were somehow put into statutory form, and there was no realization as to what the ultimate cost to the Canadian public was going to be with respect to those expenditures.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Tell the truth for a change.

Mr. Stevens: We are living with the repercussions of that honeymoon.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kempling: Who has the floor?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Stevens: I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that, when we are considering this budget before us, we not consider it merely as the budget of the present government that is in power, that it is really a budget that is being jointly presented to the Canadian people, if it were being presented fairly, by the Trudeau Liberal government, with their almost coalition partners, the NDP itself.

Mr. Kempling: That is right.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: This is a horrible speech.

Mr. Stevens: Every time I hear these socialists going forth, going out to the hustings, with their crocodile tears about how they want to help the poor, to help the elderly, to help those who have been downtrodden, I can only end up concluding that that is a hypocritical approach for any group to be taking.

Mr. Kempling: Amen.

Mr. Stevens: The fact is that they have hurt the senior citizens of this country perhaps more than any other group in the political arena. They have done the unforgivable, they have egged the government of the day on to spending programs that the nation now finds it cannot afford.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: Imagine, Mr. Speaker, to be stunned last night with the realization that spending has got so out of control, as far as this government is concerned, up to \$90 billion per year, that the net result is that almost \$20 billion has to be put on

the cuff somewhere. Literally, the government has run out of money; it cannot finance these programs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, when I say that, the repercussions are twofold. To the degree that spending is out of control it is putting pressure on our system. It puts the pressure on our system in the form of inflationary pressures and in turn, I would suggest, it drives up the interest rates that we are now living with. Is that helping the poor of this country? Is that helping the old age pensioner? Is it helping the man who is out of work to have this conspiracy between the NDP and the Trudeau Liberals driving up interest rates in the country to the near breaking point, the 20 per cent level?

● (2010)

Mr. Kristiansen: Get off it, Sinc.

Mr. Deans: It was the Tories who supported the Liberal high interest rate policy, and you know it.

Mr. Stevens: Every time the NDP advocates still more spending, I think every other member of this House should go out to where the voters are and explain the inflationary repercussions and the high interest structure the NDP is virtually insisting should be put in place.

Mr. Deans: That's a lie.

Mr. Young: That's a lie.

Mr. Epp: Order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young: It is a plain, outright lie.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, it is funny when you hit the quick—

Mr. Young: Tell the truth.

Mr. Deans: If you know it.

Mr. Stevens: When you hit the quick, it is always interesting to see—

Mr. Deans: Get out of the gutter, Sinc.

Mr. Stevens:—how the rabbits come out of their burrows so fast.

Mr. Deans: Deal with the facts, if you know them.

Mr. Stevens: There are those in the socialist ranks who still believe their program might work. I would like to ask them when. We have had 15 years of it now. We have had 15 years of trying to spend our way out of problems. When is the Valhalla going to come? The British have been ravaged by the type of experimentation about which the socialists love to talk. The British found that this orientation toward government spending and government involvement and interference only led to two things. On the one hand, it artificially triggered