

ployment in this country stands at 545,000, a group roughly as large as the entire Province of Newfoundland and Labrador combined. Unemployment is now our biggest industry, our biggest business. Some of the Members opposite may not realize it, but the Unemployment Insurance Commission of Canada now has the biggest payroll in this nation, bigger than the four largest employers on a weekly basis combined, CP, Bell, Alcan and CN.

Some Hon. Members: Iron Ore.

Mr. Mulroney: Salaries and overhead cost another—

[Translation]

An Hon. Member: Iron Ore!

Mr. Mulroney: Just wait, be patient. I am getting there, I promise.

[English]

Then there was another promise. Inflation strikes hardest at the old and those least able to take care of themselves. That was a true and honest statement in the Speech from the Throne. There were promises to look after people. Today 617,000 Canadians over 65 are still living in poverty. The sad fact is that this is roughly the combined population of Halifax, Trois-Rivières, Sudbury, Brandon, Moose Jaw, Lethbridge and New Westminster. There is a dramatization of a sadness and tragedy which has afflicted so many Canadians, notwithstanding the elegant promises of the Speech from the Throne. The poverty line for a single person in Canada is \$7,342. Four hundred and thirty-five thousand women over the age of 65, many of whom are widows, are living below this poverty line, notwithstanding the promises.

Then there was a promise made, and no matter what happens to this country, when they are telling the story 100 years from now of all of the misleading statements that have ever been made, this one is going to take the cake. Eighteen cents a gallon is too much for Canadians to pay for gas. I tell you, there was a honey if ever there was one! Here is a little piece of advertising from *The Scotia Sun*, January 23, 1980: "Dec. 11, '79 Tory gas Prices go up—Would you let the Tories raise the gas price again?" And then the answer: "Dec. 13, '79 the price comes down because Allan J. MacEachen and the Liberal Party spoke up for you. Vote Liberal, and the price will stay down! Inserted by the Cape Breton Highlands-Canso Liberal Association", and paid for by the NDP.

● (1210)

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that there is a big anniversary coming up on the 13th of this month of the occasion when the Liberals and their socialist allies conspired to defeat a government which was telling the truth and trying to work their way through these serious problems. I only hope that when Senator Davey, with all his elegance, is having the dinner next week, "The Last Supper", he will at least have the decency to invite the Leader of the NDP. And do not put him below the salt; let him sit right up there with the family!

The Address—Mr. Mulroney

Then the speech continued:

It is the intention of my ministers to continue the policies of expenditure restraint and improved government administration—

Federal spending has risen from \$62.9 billion in 1980-81 to \$100.2 billion. Government spending is now more than eight times greater than when the Prime Minister first took office.

[Translation]

Canadian taxpayers' money is being used to finance the Government's uncontrolled spending. In a regular five-day work week, the average Canadian has to work from Monday to Wednesday noon to finance the senseless spending of this Government, notwithstanding the promise that was made.

[English]

And then:

My Government will reduce the federal deficit in a planned and orderly manner—

If a bolt of lightning did not come out of the blue on that one, Mr. Prime Minister, it should have. The net debt has risen from \$81.2 billion to \$150.5 billion, an increase of 85.3 per cent since those memorable words were uttered.

It is against this kind of a backdrop that one has to evaluate the Speech from the Throne. It begs a question. Who writes this stuff anyway? Who have they got hidden away in the bowels of the bureaucracy for this? It cannot be the Liberal Party because reform committee member Alfred Apps told *Maclean's* last week that the Liberal Party is "tired, arrogant, self-serving, self-satisfied and irrelevant". Try as I might, Mr. Speaker, I could not do any better myself! Then he went on to say that "the intellectual energy that has fuelled this Party for the last 20 years has come to an end,". No disagreement on that one. I did not say that. I would not summon words like that.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I prefer to let others make such devastating value judgments. I remember a distinguished Canadian writing about this, because there is a philosophical issue here . . . What does the Government want to do? According to what criteria? On the basis of what philosophy? How do we define the corner stone of Government actions? It is important for Canadians to know these things. A man I have always considered to be very civilized and very intelligent wrote once: The philosophy of the Liberal Party is quite simple: it doesn't matter what you say or what you think and it is even better not to think at all. Just put us in power, because we know best how to govern Canada. The Prime Minister himself wrote these words in April 1963!

[English]

To be fair to the Prime Minister I have to keep the record straight. When he wrote that damning indictment of the Liberal Party, he was a Member of the NDP. But the question arises, who writes this? Who summons this stuff?

Here is a quote from *The Toronto Star*, the bible: "Fleming saved his sharpest criticism for officials in the Prime Minis-