

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to speak about the deficit. Naturally, we want to reduce the deficit—

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gagliano: Yes, but we want to do so without strangling the Canadian taxpayers as you are doing!

An Hon. Member: That shows intelligence.

Mr. Gagliano: As for you, you speak about reducing the deficit, but what do you do? An amount of \$41 million has been wasted to keep the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) happy and build a penitentiary in his constituency. And there are many more examples.

Why should we not tell the truth to the Canadian people? How can you explain that the deficit will be \$2.5 billion more than forecast in your Budget?

The Hon. Member said earlier that we knew nothing about the oil crisis in the West. However, Hon. Members will recall that, during the Budget debate, we asked the Minister of Finance questions such as: How can you expect to keep to the figures announced in your Budget in view of the decrease in oil prices? Does this mean that the taxation figures are wrong?

You knew what was going on. You said: We shall succeed. But now, you are saying: Well, we made a mistake in our figures. That is childish, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Malépart: But they have money for their friends in the banking sector.

Mr. Gagliano: The Hon. Member has reminded me about the banks. Those \$1 billion would have reduced the deficit, Mr. Speaker!

The billions of dollars spent for the banks would have reduced the deficit.

An Hon. Member: The Gulf deal!

Mr. Gagliano: The capital gains tax exemption, which even your friends are now criticising. Yesterday, the Economic Council said that this measure should be abolished. How many billions of dollars, which could have been used to reduce the deficit, will this cost Canadians? You want to reduce the deficit on the backs of the poor! But for your rich friends, you go overboard. That is the difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives. We are in favour of reducing the deficit, but only if this can be done without hurting Canadians because people still have to live. We are going through an economic crisis. Naturally, the Government has to act, but it is up to us to stimulate the economy. I have just quoted Alain Dubuc, an expert from the newspaper *La Presse*. Indeed you have stifled economic growth and fueled inflation which we had managed to bring down.

Let us talk about the creation of 500 or 600 . . . what is the latest employment figures, they change every day. Let us talk

about that. I have something to read here, again by Alain Dubuc, Mr. Speaker. Here it goes!

Job creation. This is where the Mulroney Government told the truth. Between August 1984 and August 1986, 569,000 jobs were created in Canada, but the figures seem to indicate this was a one-shot deal. Not a single job has been created since early 1986. There were 11,632,000 jobs in January, we now have 11,615,000, a net loss of 17,000 jobs since the beginning of the year.

It is all here. How do you explain the fact that you created these 569,000 jobs and that now, in 1986, we already have 17,000 fewer jobs than at the beginning of the year? It is quite simple. The Liberals had set up the Canada Works program. Under this program—

An Hon. Member: Do talk about this program.

Mr. Gagliano: Listen, you will learn something here. How do you juggle with statistics? Listen. How do you juggle with statistics?

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member simply will not listen to the truth.

Once in office the Conservative Party came out with its very own job-creation program and cut the number of weeks from 52 to 26.

The fact is that they create the same job twice. This is how you create jobs, and it makes all the difference. This is where you have been juggling with the statistics, so much so that after a year and a half of those programs we are losing jobs. And so it is. But the truth hurts, they are not prepared to accept the facts.

Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Malépart: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member from Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) on a point of order.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) used to be a leader of gas station operators, and now he is leading the muffled ones. Would you please ask him to listen religiously to the speech, the excellent speech being made by the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano), rather than interrupting . . .

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano) could well resume his speech.

Mr. Della Noce: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) on a point of order.

Mr. Della Noce: Mr. Speaker, I think that no leader of gas station operators, nor any Canadian for that matter has any lesson to learn from the Hon. Member from Montreal—Sainte