

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is right.

Mrs. Bégin: That is very true.

Mr. Orlikow: If there is one party in this country that should know what it can do for the people of Canada, what the economy can bear, and what governments can do, Mr. Speaker, it is the Liberal party. After all, they have been the government of this country for most of the last 60 years.

Let us look at some of the things the Liberals promised the people of Canada, in Parliament, or on the campaign trail a few months ago. I shall put on the record some of the things they said, and compare them with the silence of the government, particularly that of the Minister of Finance.

An interview with the leaders of the three major parties was reported in *The Globe and Mail* on February 13, 1980, in part, as follows:

If, for instance, the private sector is not creating enough jobs to put the labor force to work, then I see no reason at all why the government shouldn't take a larger proportion of the gross national product in order to create jobs—

Mr. Speaker, obviously, the private sector is not producing the jobs, yet what do we get from the government? The Minister of Finance offers virtually nothing. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) has made a proposal to spend \$100 million, which will reduce the rate of unemployment, at most, by .5 per cent.

The Prime Minister is further reported in the same interview as having this to say about high interest rates:

—we would keep interest rates down and we would make sure that they go lower by controlling inflation—

When the Conservatives formed the government the interest rate was 14 per cent; since the Liberals formed the government it has gone up by around 2 per cent.

An article in the *Toronto Star* of February 11, 1980, reports the Prime Minister talking about how the Liberals would manage the economy. He said:

I would want to manage the economy in such a way that interest rates would in fact come down, not because of act of government intervention, but because the economy would be administered in a sounder way.

Yet the Minister of Finance is forecasting more unemployment in the coming year and a 10 per cent rate of inflation.

The *Toronto Star* on February 13, before his party formed the government, reported the Prime Minister's address to the Advertising and Sales Club of Toronto, as follows:

We do not condemn Mr. Clark for failing to solve the problems of inflation, unemployment and high interest rates in six months. That would have been an unfair and unrealistic expectation.

We condemn him for budgeting to make our problems worse. Nowhere is that more true than in Ontario.

The Clark budget, if we had not defeated it, would have jolted Ontario with such a sharp increase in energy costs as to bring economic growth to a virtual standstill—

• (2010)

That was in February. Here we are in April. What did the Liberal Minister of Finance tell us? He told us there would be no growth at all in this coming year, no growth at all in

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Canada. But when you realize that in Alberta and Saskatchewan there are quite sharp increases in the GNP, it means in fact a reduction in the GNP in Ontario. That is the difference between the Liberals when they are in opposition and the Liberals when they are in office.

I want to turn now to some of the things which were said by the Minister of Employment and Immigration, whose bill we are now debating. If there is one person who is an example of the Liberal party it is the present Minister of Employment and Immigration because there is such a contrast between what he says when he is in opposition and how little he says when he is in government. I have a few of the things that he has said, in front of me. On January 10, dealing with housing, he said this:

The first requirement to respond to immediately is high interest rates.

We know what has happened to mortgage interest rates since this government took office. As reported in the *Toronto Star* for January 11, the following appeared:

Liberal housing critic, Lloyd Axworthy said yesterday "a range of alternatives" on housing were presented to the Liberal economic platform committee, with a shelter allowance scheme as one option.

Where is that shelter allowance scheme?

Mr. Deans: Where was the platform?

Mr. Orlikow: My colleague, the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), asks where was the platform. Unfortunately the people of Canada did not really press them on that.

Let us continue to look at some more remarks made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration with regard to housing. He was noted when he was in the Manitoba legislature for the constructive things which he said about redeveloping the core of our cities, and how we ought to do things in the housing field. I have here a speech which the minister made concerning the mortgage tax credit bill. This is dated November, 1979. He is talking about the Conservative proposal for the mortgage interest tax credit plan. This is what he said:

The Minister of Finance likes to say he is prepared to take recommendations and propositions. He has just received one, put some money into first-time home owners; put some money into writing down interest rates for those who have to renegotiate their mortgages; give bridge financing so that people can get into the housing market or stay in it. The major beneficiaries of this program are not first-time home owners but existing home owners who already have large mortgages at low interest rates.

At the present time in the city of Winnipeg, a city which both the minister and I represent, there is a petition being circulated by people who are facing just the problem which the present minister was talking about. They are this year in the process of renegotiating their mortgages which they took out five years ago. And five years ago the interest rate on their mortgages was about 11 per cent. Now it is 15 per cent, 16 per cent or 17 per cent. The minister has power now, and suddenly he has lost his voice and suddenly we hear nothing from him. He was great in opposition, but now he has disappeared.

Mr. Deans: He has disappeared completely.

Mr. Orlikow: And he is not even in the House.