

*Supply*

What was in the finance minister's statement about major highways in Ontario? Absolutely nothing. We need a retrained work force in this country. Canadians will only rediscover themselves when the government shows some vision, when it has given them an opportunity to get back to work. The government had that opportunity last week and once again it disappointed the majority of Canadians.

There is an inscription about 100 metres from here on the west arch of the Peace Tower that reads: "Where there is no vision, the people perish". That is the stage at which we seem to be in Canada right now with a lack of vision on the part of this country.

I think becoming the Prime Minister of this country should never become someone's obsession, where he must become Prime Minister. Forming a government in this country should never become an end in itself, as it seems to be with the current government.

Put that in a more practical way. The signing of the free trade agreement should never have been an end in itself. The signing of the free trade agreement was just the beginning. It should have been followed by a massive restructuring of skills development so that Canadians who wanted to go to work would have had the skills in a much changed world economy which we are supposed to be embracing. I am not condemning the embracing of it, but I am condemning the lack of ability of the government to get on with it.

The Prime Minister said that anyone displaced by the free trade would be retrained. Canada is waiting. A vibrant, zealous work force that was offered meaningful opportunities for Canadians was called for at this time. This tax and spend mind set of the current government has to be replaced by an investment in growth mind set. We have done it before in Canada.

We moved from an agricultural base after the Second World War to an industrial base. That was a massive thing for Canadians to do. The difference was that at that time we had leaders with vision, leaders with integrity, and we are lacking in that department so obviously that we have brought ourselves almost to our knees by that lack of vision which is so apparent today in the benches across the way.

In those years there was excitement. There was a kind of an exuberance and a vibrancy among Canadians. They had confidence in what they were doing. Those ideas were promoted by men and women who had vision and knew where they wanted to carry this country.

I do not think that the needs and the challenges of today are any more than they were in those years. However, the difference is that there is no leadership, no vision from the present government. That is the major difference. It seems to be paralysed and it seems to be fossilized in its present locked-step method. It is either not prepared or it is not capable of giving the required leadership. The government seems to be caught up in its own importance.

Now its total obsession is when would be the most opportune time for it to call an election? Never mind what it would do to Canada. Never mind what a delay would do or what stepping up the date would do. What would be the best position for us to get a fix on for a date that would make sure that we again try to fool Canadians? I do not think that Canadians are going to be fooled this time. They are looking for direction.

This government has done nothing to expand the economy of the country. If you are going to continue to try and draw revenues from a stagnant economy, all you are really doing is digging yourself into a bigger hole and compounding your problems. Promises are no longer valid when they come from the government across the way because it has seen so many of them so quickly vanish, with no attempt whatsoever to see that they were carried through.

In closing, if someone asked me what I would have done, I would have announced grandly that we were cancelling the \$4.5 billion helicopter order. Every Canadian from St. John's, Newfoundland to the west coast to the north would have applauded the government and even this government might have retained or regained a little bit of integrity with that step.

There something at play out there. It is called mass hysteria; trying to equip us with 50 helicopters at a time when unemployment rolls are extending more and more. Bread lines are extending more and more.