

Canadians to believe that the Minister of Finance and the government are serious when they talk about this restraint program having a salutary effect on the deficit or the debt?

The Minister of Finance predicted in his plans released in 1985 that right now the deficit in Canada should be below \$20 billion. You cannot keep telling people one thing and producing another result and expect them to believe you.

I do want to point out why Canadians have every right to be cynical, particularly those Canadians who follow what the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister say. The Prime Minister said to Canadians several weeks ago that he believed, and he stated it as a bald fact, that interest rates would go down. The finance minister in his budget states without any equivocation that the projections for interest rates this year are 11.1 per cent. As a matter of fact, he suggests that next year, as I recall the number, it should be down below 9 per cent.

We have gone by St. Patrick's Day so we cannot talk about leprechauns and wee people creeping into the system and doing the kinds of things that are throwing the Minister of Finance off base. But we have to question where the Minister of Finance is going to go now with his ally, in part, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, who is saying very clearly in his report made public yesterday that he has to achieve price stability. For the Governor of the Bank of Canada to achieve price stability he has to keep interest rates up.

I think most fair-minded people would recognize that there is absolutely no way that we can get to an 11.1 per cent interest rate this year because we would have to believe, if that were to be the case, that at some point this year we will see interest rates in single-digit figures, somewhere around 8 per cent, to be able to average out to 11.1 per cent because we are already into the year. Why should Canadians in all 10 provinces and the territories believe that the government is serious when it is talking about financial restraint when it has been proven wrong time and time again in its projections? The only thing the government has been right about in terms of delivering is that Tory times are tough times and Tory times are taxing times.

Government Orders

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): It has been absolutely right on in those kinds of projections. Tory times being tough times was said a long time before anybody ever dreamed the NDP would appear on the scene in this country. So it certainly was not taken from any one to my left.

Tory times are often tough times. One of the nice things about the opportunity we have today to discuss the presentation made by the Minister of State for Finance is that we can discuss credibility. We can look at where the government has been in the last five or six years.

I hope that as this debate continues, my colleagues on the government side will stand in their places and explain to Canadians why they should be punished for the mismanagement of the Mulroney government and the inability of the Minister of Finance to be able to project, based on his information and his own policies, the kinds of results that would give any confidence to Canadian consumers, investors or, for that matter, to people outside the country looking at what is taking place in Canada.

In closing, I want to say unequivocally that we in the Liberal party oppose Bill C-69. We believe that the government is going to have to recognize that it is getting into an extremely difficult situation with the contradictory signals that are coming out concerning its budget, particularly as it applies to interest rate projections. I do not believe that we are going to be able to look at budget restraint measures any more than we are going to be able to look at the very illusory conclusions that were drawn in that budget based on this 11.1 per cent figure.

I hope that the Minister of Finance, the Department of Finance and the government will consider seriously revising their projections and their conclusions. It seems to me that as we are asking Canadians and provinces to shoulder a burden based on incorrect information or improper assumptions that we are not doing anybody a service.

In light of what was said yesterday by Mr. Crow, let us hope that the government will recognize that interest rates are going to remain high. If the government continues with these policies, the great danger that is inherent in this bill is that it is going to create more unemployment. It is going to force more Canadians on to