

will be a lot brighter than it would have been under the previous Government.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Are there questions or comments?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member will admit that during the last election campaign there was no suggestion that the federal Government would cut back its commitment to post-secondary education, research and medicare in the way it has. What the Government said it was going to do was to bring the Budget back into what the Conservatives considered a more proper balance and cut out the tremendous billions of dollars, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) put it, of waste and extravagance in the Liberal Government. When I look at what the Government had to do to make savings in the Budget, the most important programs in the country being cut, I am reminded me of that promise. What happened to that promise? What has the Government done about that?

**Mr. Attewell:** Mr. Speaker, let us talk about what was promised in the last election. The key promise was change. Change from fiscal irresponsibility. We certainly delivered on that. I do not know where the Liberal Government thought the money would come from but it certainly burdened the future of this country for I do not know how many years.

Canadians wanted change, and let me speak primarily about fiscal change. They wanted to restore the confidence of foreign investors in Canada. They wanted to restore the confidence of Canadian investors. The Hon. Member will know, if he checks the record, how much capital left this country. Investors did not want to be bothered coming here after they looked at things like FIRA and that agency's red tape and negative attitude. We inherited that situation and I think we brought about a tremendous amount of change. The Minister of Finance's latest Budget predicts a deficit under \$30 billion. Discretionary spending has seen a reduction for the first time in 20 years. Money does not grow on trees and the taxpayers know that. They have been burdened unnecessarily because of excessive spending for 15 to 20 years. They want change and we have a very responsible Government and extremely able Minister of Finance who are going to bring about change.

I think Canadians have a growing understanding of what really happened over the last 15 years. I touched on the Nielsen task force report concerning some 900 programs which had never been looked at by the previous Government other than in a patchwork way. I could go on and on about the changes this Government has instituted, including a number of social programs, such as the Young Offenders Act, which the Hon. Member had a lot to do with at one time, some changes to that, and pornography, on which I think some very effective legislation is coming down.

● (1710)

We were asked for changes for the good, changes for confidence building in this country, and now capital is starting

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to be returned. People are looking on the brighter side of what just might happen down the road for this country in job creation and a better outlook with the responsible action, words and deeds of this particular Government.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, I remember the last election campaign well, too, and I think the Canadian people were promised a change. I wanted to go beyond that because they were not promised the changes that have been delivered. They were promised that this Conservative Government had discovered billions of dollars of waste and extravagance and that the Government was going to be able to save the Canadian taxpayer's money by rooting all that out.

What I want to put to the Hon. Member is that Hon. Members in the Government did not find billions of dollars of waste and extravagance, but that to bring the budget down they have cut programs that impact on the provincial level of Government, and that they are using the same theory they used to get elected.

Members of the Conservative Government told the Canadian people that there was waste and extravagance in the spending of the former Government. I am going to speak in a few minutes on some of the waste and extravagance of the present Government which exceeds anything I have ever heard of in my career as a Member of Parliament. They did not find the waste and extravagance. What they have done is to say that there is waste and extravagance in the provincial programs. The Government is going to cut medicare and post-secondary education because the provinces are wasting money, the hospitals are wasting money, and post-secondary educational institutions are wasting money, so there will not be any reduction in quality, but there is going to be an elimination of waste and extravagance at the provincial level by the restraint that the federal Government is imposing on them.

I want to ask him whether he thinks that that kind of a line, which is the only possible interpretation of the events, has any credibility at all with the Canadian people. Is that not the reason this Government is taking such a pounding in public opinion?

**Mr. Attewell:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to respond to a few of the points my hon. colleague has made. With all due respect, he has a very selective memory. Let me just start with two or three points. First of all, something that has been created over some 15 years is not about to be changed overnight if we are going to approach things in a balanced and caring way as we work out a way out of this. He has not brought up what this Government did in the privatization area. Thanks to the privatization program of the Minister, de Havilland now is more viable than it has been in decades thanks to Boeing's world-wide sales network. *Hansard* will show the kicking and screaming and wailing that went on about that. Now there will not be a drain on the federal Treasury that there had been before.

We are tackling other institutions as well under the Minister responsible for the Post Office. That is an organization that