

Senate and House of Commons Act

Member. I will wait until for that opportunity he has spoken. However, in response to his question, I would like him to reflect upon some questions which I would like to ask of him.

Which Government in Canadian history has had the biggest Cabinet ever? Which Government in Canadian history has appointed commissars, chiefs of staff, at over \$80,000 a year? Which Prime Minister's Office in history has increased that office by over 50 per cent? Which Prime Minister in history has hired Dalton Camp or an equivalent at over \$100,000 a year of taxpayers' money? The answer to all those questions is, the Conservative Government of Canada led by the present Prime Minister.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Member's speech. It was the most incredible misinformation that I have heard delivered in this House in a very long time. The Member was accusing the Government of hypocrisy. Let us put some facts on the table.

He spoke about poverty in the country. When the Liberals defeated the Conservative Government in 1980, 15.1 per cent of Canadians were living below the poverty line. Four years later, after the great Liberal management of the economy of the country, the poverty rate had climbed to 17.3 per cent. That is when the food banks started. They started with that Government because of the way it mishandled things. The facts are there. If the Hon. Member would deliver the facts and if he were honest with this House, we would not have to listen to the falsehoods which are spread.

Another fact is that one year after that 1984 election the poverty rate had declined to 15.9 per cent, which means that 300,000 fewer Canadians are living below the poverty line. All these facts contradict what the Hon. Member is saying. I would like to make it clear that we are not happy with that. That is not good enough in this country. We want it to get better and that is what we are working toward.

The Member's friend got up earlier today and attacked women appointees. It is interesting to note that this Government has increased the appointment of women to federal bodies by 25 per cent over that of the Liberals. The Liberals talk a lot but never act. This Government acts. I suppose the Member will oppose the recent appointment of women to the Senate by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). I am sure he will have something to say about that. The facts are here.

The Member stands up and delivers his diatribe, which is completely wrong, with a straight face. I am not a lawyer but—

Mr. Nunziata: That's obvious.

Mr. McDermid:—I can imagine that in law school there is a course on keeping a straight face while telling a big whopper. I believe that there is a course on that because the Hon. Member told the greatest string of tales with a straight face. The nerve of him to accuse the Government of hypocrisy! He is

a new boy in here and maybe he did not study that which has gone on in the past. He should study what has gone on in the past and then maybe he would get up in the House once and deliver a straight speech with the facts in it.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, in view of the concerns of the Hon. Member, allow me to lay out the facts with a smile. I will try to smile as I lay out the facts. As a result of the two Budgets of the Government of Canada, taxes have increased by \$5 billion in 1986 to 1987. A one-income couple with two children earning \$30,000 a year will pay an additional \$630 in taxes, while a one-income family with two children earning \$50,000 a year will pay only \$575 in additional taxes. That is a difference of over \$50. Those are some facts.

Mr. McDermid: Tell us about tax reform.

Mr. Nunziata: If the Member wants facts with a smile, I will give him facts with a smile. We know for a fact that the Prime Minister has decided to construct a prison in his riding at a cost of \$41 million, notwithstanding the fact that a prison is not necessary. We know for a fact that there are new chiefs of staff who are being paid in excess of \$80,000. We know for a fact that Mr. Dalton Camp was hired and is being paid over \$100,000 a year. I am trying to relate these facts with a smile, Mr. Speaker. We know for a fact that the Prime Minister uses a Hercules jet to transport video equipment in order to film his every move, including the changing of the diapers of his children. We know as well that the Gulf-Reichmann deal cost taxpayers \$1 billion. We know as well that uninsured depositors were paid over \$1 billion.

If the Member wants facts, I will give him facts. I will lay out all the facts rather than only selective facts. The bottom line is that the facts speak for themselves. It is a fact that the Government has decided to pay the legal fees of the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion to the tune of \$350,000. The Government of Canada has decided to pay the legal fees of someone who may be found to be in contravention of the conflict of interest guidelines. The Government is paying that when other Canadians have to pay their own legal fees for a divorce or to fight a speeding ticket. Those are the facts, my friend. When one looks at the facts and the record of the Conservative Government it is no wonder that the Conservative Government is so far down in public opinion. Canadians are looking at the facts when they speak about the Government in disparaging terms.

The Member wants to talk facts. The facts are there, my friend. The facts of the two regressive Conservative Budgets are on the table. I only ask that the Hon. Member have the backbone and courage to stand up and hang his head in shame.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At one o'clock p.m. the House took recess.