

this government is reneging and is dishonest in the face of the legislation. It is holding Canadians up for ransom by dumping its responsibilities on the provinces.

In closing, when this government goes to the polls, each of those members will want to be able to look Canadians in the face and say: "I kept faith with you and I lived up to my commitments to you". I would suggest the hon. members on the other side of the House talk to this government about what is necessary for one to be able to look a Canadian in the eye and say: "I kept faith with you".

Mr. Thompson: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make it perfectly clear that during this debate today we have heard extrapolations or projections of what might have been. I suggest the hon. member's entire speech was based on what might have been if we lived in a perfect world.

That is the point I wish to make. Those are extrapolations only on figures that might have been--

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It is not a point of order. It is a matter of opinion.

On the same point of order, the hon. member for Essex—Windsor.

Mr. Langdon: As my colleague pointed out, equalization payments to provinces like New Brunswick actually fell from \$8.1 billion to \$7.9 billion. That is not talking about extrapolations. That is talking about actual reductions.

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into this debate and in particular to offer a perspective as an Ontario member. I would not want to hear catcalls from the other side of the room, just because I am a New Democrat and the province of Ontario happens to have a New Democratic government.

I will try to offer a perspective based on the reality that this federal government is in fact off-loading its responsibilities through the curtailment of its transfer payments. I do not care what government is in Ontario. It is just a coincidence that we are both New Democrats.

Government Orders

We talk about have provinces and have not provinces and what is going on with the federal government.

A lot of things have been said today about there being only one place to get tax money and that is from the taxpayer. It really does not make any difference if we get it on the federal level, the provincial level or from the municipal level or through the board of education taxes. The reality is—it was pointed out by a Conservative member—there is only one taxpayer. That person is absolutely right. There is only one taxpayer.

The problem is that the federal government continues to raise personal income taxes—

Mr. Hockin: We lowered it.

Mr. Samson: Tell the taxpayer that you lowered it.

An hon. member: Look at the budget. We lowered it.

Mr. Samson: Now they are getting excited. It does not take much to get them excited.

The fact is that the way the tax dollar is being spent is the issue. When the federal government transfers responsibilities to the provinces without transferring the funds for them to function, it would be about the same as if I said to my wife: "I have the income but you have to go out and pay the bills". This is what is happening today.

When we see the cap on the Canada Assistance Plan, when we see what this federal government is doing—I support the fact that we need immigrants in Canada—but when it allows immigrants to come to Canada and it transfers the responsibility of educating, housing and feeding these immigrants on to the provinces without transferring the proper amount of money, then what are we doing?

What is this federal government doing? I think what it has to come up with are some answers as to what it is doing with Canadian dollars. How is it spending the money?

This government has made millions and millions of dollars on the GST. It knows that and it admits it. It has saved. It brags about the reduction in interest rates and it is saving millions of dollars there.