

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. Once more, this is a matter of opinion and not a point of order.

Before recognizing the hon. member for Cape Breton—Richmond East, I would appreciate it if he would tell me whether his party has opted for one 20-minute speech or two 10-minute speeches.

[*English*]

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I think you might find unanimous consent by all members of Parliament that I would be given the privilege of speaking perhaps for 60 minutes, as opposed to 20. I know the ministers opposite would like to hear my remarks.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking for the full allotment of 20 minutes and will then entertain questions thereafter.

I know the point of order raised by my colleague from the New Democratic Party was an opinion that was voiced by him singly, but I can assure him that members on this side of the House share the pith and substance of that comment as it relates to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who has now departed the Chamber.

The 1990s and the century beyond are taking shape and Canada is falling behind. Today, more than ever, Canadians need a vision of what their country can become. Today Canadians expect of their political leaders, not only policies and programs, but an enabling vision that places issues and interest in a greater scheme of things and binds together the lives of individual citizens. They are demanding honest, ethical and law abiding leadership. To that end, the Prime Minister and his Conservative government have failed.

This government has broken faith with the Canadian people and it has gambled recklessly with the country's fate and its future.

Government Orders

The policies and practices of this government are policies that punish provinces and working people, deny education, destroy jobs, and diminish opportunities.

It is a government that presides over people who live on the edge of economic fear or who are experiencing the full and painful realization of those fears. Homeless families with young children are pulling heart strings in every town and city across this land. Men and women who have good jobs today are not sure they will be working tomorrow. Young couples are losing hope that they will ever have a home of their own in the foreseeable future.

The unemployed parent, the hungry child, the native Canadian living in poverty, a closed factory, the local food bank—these are all symbols of the cold heart of conservatism.

Rarely has a government in Canada been given such an historic opportunity to demonstrate vision and rarely has the government failed so badly.

Canadians are being penalized by high interest rates and punished by higher and higher taxes. The Prime Minister of this country and his government are Canada's worst dream come true.

Two years ago we debated at great length the contents of a free trade agreement. My colleagues on this side of the House, as well as Canadians across the country, have shared with one another the facts of the consummation of that agreement.

It was said in that agreement that free trade will help to improve Canada's trade performance. The evidence is contrary. Canada's merchandise trade deficit in October 1989 was the first since 1976. In 1989 Canada posted record deficits in trade, services, and investment income in the current account.

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, the promise of jobs, jobs, jobs? While 250,000 jobs were created in 1989, this is 100,000 jobs fewer than what was created in 1988.

It was said the free trade agreement will secure access for Canadian exports to the U.S. market. U.S. harassment of Canadian exports continues with various actions taken against Canadian exports of pork, fish, lobster, softwood lumber, yoghurt and ice cream, wheat, poultry, steel, sugar, limousines, raspberries, and heavy equipment.