

*Oral Questions***THE ECONOMY**

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and relates to what he referred to in his previous answer. When his Leader was running for election in 1984 he promised that he would not be bribing us with our own money. That promise has been rehashed this week by the new Leader of the Opposition.

Does the Minister believe that the way money has been spent and thrown around in the last couple of weeks has been good for the Canadian economy and the Canadian taxpayers?

Mr. Broadbent: I want to record this one. Let's hear it.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The socialist promises are pure hypocrisy.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): My hon. friend has used a word which I think is very appropriate, hypocrisy. I think that when the Hon. Member looks at himself in the mirror, he will not be able to believe what he just heard come out of his lips. What we have demonstrated over the course of the last four years and what we propose to generate if we are re-elected—

Some Hon. Members: When.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—after this next election—

Mr. Broadbent: When?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Very soon, very soon. What we will see is a continuation of the fiscal responsibility that we have demonstrated very clearly over the last four years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): We have brought down the deficit every year for three years running, the first time that has happened since the war. That is a commitment that we made to the Canadian people and it is a commitment we will continue to make to the Canadian people during the course of this campaign.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister, and I believe it is a serious question. Canadians want their MPs to fight for projects in their provinces and their regions, but they want the Government to have some kind of sense of fiscal responsibility and fairness.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1200)

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Churchill.

Mr. Murphy: The question is very straightforward. Why has this Government been a complete failure over the last four years in making sure there is an honest bidding system, and making sure that when the Prime Minister promises roads, airports, and services to remote parts of his riding, it is done for all of the remote areas of Canada?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I see. That is fiscal responsibility.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I can't believe what I am hearing from this Hon. Member. He represents the Party that has called for an \$11 billion annual—annual—child care program.

Mr. Broadbent: You're wrong again. That's your propagan-da you believe.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): No, it's your proposal.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): It is the same Party, whose Leader, every time we brought forward any proposal to cut government spending, was the first one on his feet acting as self-righteous as he possibly can—

Mr. Broadbent: Wrong again! Wrong again!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—saying the Conservatives shouldn't be cutting spending on this program, we shouldn't allow this type of change to be made.

Mr. Broadbent: Do you ever tell the truth over there? Try the truth for a change, Michael.

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AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds. The drought in many parts of Canada has reduced the production of grain and oilseeds. Is the Minister in a position to announce a program at this time? If so, would he share that with Members of the House and Canadians?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, I think it is well known that there have been some major production problems this year because of weather, heat, and lack of moisture. It will be a more difficult problem to address than we have had in the last couple of years. People are going to need more assistance than will be able to be provided by crop insurance.

We are in the process of consulting with producers and with the provincial Governments, Ontario and the other provinces, in order to devise a program that will target the assistance and see that it goes to the producers who have suffered the most as a result of lack of production.