

The Budget—Mr. G. Wilson

principle of procurement by public tender. I say to the people in power this: never forget integrity and honesty. You got a taste of it last time and the same thing will happen this time.

Mr. Leblanc: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Gatineau spoke at length, in the first part of his speech, about free trade. I just want to remind him he was about the only member in the Bourassa government in Quebec who was against free trade. I find that hard to understand! Anyway, I think he was forced to resign and to settle here, near Ottawa, either to save some money, since travelling is less expensive this way, or because Mr. Bourassa simply asked him to resign as he was against free trade.

So, I want to ask him this: Why wasn't he able, when he was a Minister in Quebec, to settle the problem of Highway 50, north of the St. Lawrence River? That is another thing in which he failed.

I don't know what issues the Hon. Member will be able to fight if he continues to make grand speeches based on false statements. It was just grandstanding today, because all his statements were unfounded. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this kind of statements does harm to the status of the House of Commons.

An Hon. Member: It lowers our standards.

Mr. Leblanc: It undermines the ability of our colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Hon. Member to answer two small questions and also to explain why, when he was in office, they could not stop the annual deficit from increasing every year and why they left us the country in such an appealing state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like some answers to my questions.

Mr. Rocheleau: Mr. Speaker, I never thought that the Hon. Member for Longueuil who lives next door to the Space Agency would have raised in the House today. Just the same, I should like to reply to some of his questions.

As far as Highway 50 is concerned, I can tell my Hon. friend that the Quebec Government has accepted to assume the costs of its construction provided the Federal Government pays its share. And the Canadian Minister of Transport has so far refused to include this in the Federal-Provincial Agreements.

I dare hope that this Government will have the decency to provide the funds necessary for the develop-

ment of the Ottawa Valley on the Quebec side and make it possible for the people living in the Ottawa area to travel to Montreal on a Quebec highway.

As far as free trade is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Hon. Member that the Quebec Government I was part of—that I would fully support free trade provided the Federal Government first agreed to Quebec's demands, something it has not done yet. You have no re-training programs, which was an essential condition of the Bourassa Government, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the Bourassa Government went over that and supported this Tory Government and, six months later, Mr. Bourassa came to tell you that you had not done your homework and that you lacked political conscience. That is what he came here to tell you on the other side. And I went to listen to my former boss, and the Hon. Member for Longueuil should not worry, for we are still very good friends.

• (1700)

I hope this is enough, because I could deal with several other issues, Mr. Speaker. Over the next few years, I know I will have a great many opportunities to set him straight.

[English]

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Member from Gatineau quoted from Shakespeare so easily I thought I would give him one that befits what he said. It is from Henry VIII, Act III: "His promises were as he was then, mighty, but his performance as he is now, nothing".

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Asiniboia): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and a privilege for me to participate in the Budget debate. I would like to begin with a review of the actions of the Government and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) over the past four and a half years, since the fall of 1984.

The Economic Statement of November 1984, put forward by the Minister of Finance, talked in terms of four pillars or foundations of the program of the Government. Those four pillars were economic renewal, national reconciliation, social justice and constructive internationalism.

The key to everything, of course, was economic renewal. In keeping with the goal and objective of responsible deficit reduction announced by the Minister back in November of 1984, great strides have been made toward economic renewal. That is to say, putting Canadians back