

Supply

You are not going to do that when you are at 11 per cent and you are squeezing up and peaking at 16 per cent. Who is going to call an election when you are peaking at 16 per cent? It is crazy, it blows credulity. That is number one.

Second, and by the way, the government has been consistently between 11 and 16 per cent for the last two years. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that it has lost the confidence of the Canadian people. In fact, I would suggest that this government has even lost the confidence of its own backbenchers. Lately I have not seen any rats defying the old saying that you have to swim away from the ship. I do not see anybody swimming toward the ship these days. They are sitting behind us here. It has lost the confidence of this gang called "Blocs", "Bloc-heads". They are sitting here.

Mrs. Sparrow: Where?

Mr. Rodriguez: There, right in the back. You lost two over there who crawled away from your position on the GST. One of them found a home harbour abetted by the Liberal Party. He is now sitting with the Liberals. You lost the confidence of your own backbenchers.

In fact, the only way the boss can keep them in line is by promising them that their pensions will continue if this Parliament continues for another year. That is the only way of keeping them in line.

I want to say to my colleagues over there: Repent now. It is not too late to repent. Do not go down with the ship. Do not let the Prime Minister take you down with him. I know that there are people of reason back there and I think they should recognize the reality.

This government has lost the confidence of the Canadian people. Period. End of story. That is a fact. It has lost the confidence of its own people. Its own membership in the grassroots are all flocking to something called the Reform Party. Its membership in the House has flocked over to something called the Bloc Quebecois.

All of that is mirrored in the polls. The Prime Minister is looking in the mirror and he is saying: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, can I win this election in the fall?" The answer comes back loud and clear: "You may be the brightest in the land, but not even Hughie Segal can save your hand."

An hon. member: Did you make that up?

Mr. Rodriguez: Listen brother, I just tell them. I do not explain them.

This government needs, any government here right now needs a renewed mandate. There are so many important issues that will put Canada on a new course and it needs the input of the Canadian people. God knows that this government is incapable of receiving the opinions of the Canadian people. It does not know what that process is.

We have the whole question of a North American free trade agreement, a very massive agreement that will have very, very serious implications for the restructuring of this country economically and culturally. That is number one.

We have a very serious question with respect to renewing the Constitution of Canada. Yet, Heaven knows that this government has no credibility on that issue whatsoever in the land. The people just do not trust the Prime Minister of this country to negotiate a new deal with respect to the Constitution of the country.

The time is ripe for us to renew the mandate by the people of Canada in an election. Why? The first question is as to why would this government not call an election now.

One reason is that it is peaking in the polls. In the mirror we know what it is.

The second reason, and my colleague from Regina—Qu'Appelle referred to it briefly in his question to the previous member, is that it is the neo-Conservative agenda. This government has to embark and complete the task of the neo-Conservative agenda. We know what the hallmarks of that agenda have been. It has been deregulation, privatization and the free trade agreement turning this country into a giant free-for-all for the transnational corporations to take control. That is the neo-Conservative agenda. Keep out of the marketplace.

• (1650)

The market is the new altar at which we are going to make sacrificial lambs of Canadians. We are going to worship at this altar. Is that not funny, how they talk about this marketplace? This is a new marketplace where it is said that government has to get out of the face of business. Get out of my face. The first time Olympia & York has trouble it runs to the government like Oliver