

followed had to do with credibility, and today young people are rather incredulous about politics and politicians. In the election campaign, these young people hear one thing, then the Government outlines what it intends to do over the next four years in what is called the Throne Speech, and then, of course, we have the economic statement, which is the reality. The young people see there is much to be desired. There seems to be a "slip between the cup and the lip" in that loose lips prevailed during the election campaign, and once the Tories received the majority they wanted, lo and behold, it did not matter any more. Now they have the prize. They are sitting over there, they are sitting over here, they are sitting to the right and they are sitting to the left.

What was the big issue of the election campaign? It was, "Jobs, jobs, jobs". But we have the reality of the Tories now that they have their 211 seats. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I was secretly delighted that finally the Liberals were turned out of office. I had hoped that a new dawning was taking place and that finally we were going to go into a period where what a government said in the election and what was done in fact would restore confidence in and the credibility of practising politicians and politics in general. But lo and behold, what was "jobs, jobs, jobs" during the election campaign, is not "jobs, jobs, jobs" any longer. It has become "cuts, cuts, cuts".

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) very clearly outlined that the priority was jobs. However, what was said about jobs in the Throne Speech? I quote:

My Government views unemployment as Canada's most debilitating problem and most critical national challenge.

That is one sentence, Mr. Speaker. What happened in the time between spring and fall? Obviously there were whisperings in the ears of those who now have power, and those whisperings were Roland Frazee of the Royal Bank, and the John Bullocks of Bay Street who have the ears, and I would say some other part of the anatomy of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). Those are the louder voices, Mr. Speaker. Those are the voices which count. I do not know of any working class people in this country with whom the Minister of Finance consulted before he brought down his financial statement. I do not know with which working class group the Prime Minister consulted before he brought down the Throne Speech. Those people were not consulted.

Young people are looking for credibility, Mr. Speaker, and they do not see it in this Government. This Government has a new fixation, and that is the deficit. This Government is transfixed like a cobra by a flute player. It is transfixed with the idea of a deficit. However, that is not what was being said during the election campaign. The deficit was not the big concern at that time. The Prime Minister said on July 10 in Ottawa, when he was seeking to be elected, "All of our policies are designed to create jobs. There is a cost in everything and I indicated there is a short-term cost to get the economy moving again". In Vancouver on August 24 he said, "Clearly there can be no drastic reduction in the deficit until interest rates are

lowered and the country gets back to work. Massive cuts now would guarantee a recession".

What happened, Mr. Speaker? Why is there this great fixation with the deficit? I feel that fixation comes from the boys on Bay Street. It is obvious that the Prime Minister is more concerned with what his friends on Bay Street have to say about the deficit and it is to those voices he listens. During the election campaign he agreed on television with the Leader of our Party that there ought to be a minimum tax. But was there anything about a minimum tax on the wealthy in the Throne Speech? You bet your bottom dollar there was not! The Prime Minister is going to fight this deficit on the backs of the working people and on the backs of the unemployed. Yet the banks of this country are the wealthiest in the world. At a time when we have an inflation rate of 3 per cent, they are lending money at 14 per cent, 15 per cent and 18 per cent. They are raking the money in. Are they contributing to the reduction of the deficit of this country?

● (1520)

What about the conglomerates in this country, the concentration of power? John Bullock should be more concerned about the concentration of corporate power in this country than about trying to give people jobs at less than the minimum wage, and then suggesting that the Government should prop it up to the provincial minimum wage. At the same time, the Government hires 700 members of a goon squad to come in and harass people on unemployment insurance. The victims are being blamed for problems they have not caused but of which they are the victims.

The cynicism of Canadians about politics and politicians is brought on by that kind of doubletalk, Mr. Speaker. During the campaign you say one thing, and when you are in power you say and do something else. There has to be some sort of consistency in politics and politicians. The people of Canada turfed out someone who did a lot to tear down the credibility of politicians. We had the spectacle of Pierre Trudeau running against wage controls in 1974 which had been proposed by Robert Stanfield. Once he was elected with a majority in 1974, he brought in wage controls. Another example is the 18 cent a gallon excise tax. Sure, we introduced the subamendment which brought the Clark Government down. Of course we did. They had a responsibility to govern and they flubbed it. But then the Liberals ran a whole campaign against an 18 cent a gallon excise tax, and once they were in power, the tax far exceeded 18 cents. Try 54 cents.

We hoped that we had put all that behind us when Pierre Trudeau and the Liberals were tossed out of office, but what we have here is the building anew of a dynasty of incredibility. That is not healthy for Canada and for young Canadians.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we have the example of British Columbia. Now there is another gang, the Social Credit Government. They went after the deficit. It is amazing that the phrases and the words in their Budget of 1983 are very similar to what we have heard here. I just want to quote some of the phrases, and you tell me if you have heard them before.