

in place, if it ever was in place. It is a system which could only work if it allowed almost uninhibited exploitation. That appears to be the kind of system which this Government is now attempting to put back in place. I hope my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount (Mr. Johnston), will agree with me when I say that is not the system which Canadians want. That is not the kind of system which we in the opposition benches want to see. It is not the kind of system on which Canada was built. Good God, we have devoted most of our lives on attempting to eliminate exploitation and to raise the lot of the average working families to make it possible for those average families to own their own homes rather than to live in accommodation which is owned by others. I have spent most of my adult life attempting to improve the health and safety conditions in the factories and in various industrial undertakings in Canada. I don't want to see those things slip away. I don't want to see us disregarding those kinds of things as this Government pursues the ideological utopia of private enterprise based on unfettered exploitation. I hope there are other Hon. Members in this House who feel likewise. I hope there is at least someone in the Conservative Party—anyone, sitting anywhere, I don't care, in the most obscure corner of the House, who will rise and say that he or she disagrees with this Government's intention to create the larger and larger pools of unemployed who will be deprived of the economic future which we have fought to create.

● (1540)

There should be an opportunity for everyone to find a job and to work at it and to use all of the available economic means to achieve success. That is where this Government has failed. It may have failed in a lot of other areas as well, but that is the area in which the Government has no understanding, where its Achilles heel lies, as I look at it today. It is a Government which has fond memories of something which no one liked when we had it, a Government which wants to take us all back to it, notwithstanding that it would be disastrous, not only for the generation which is presently employed but for many of the young people who will come into the work force in the future.

I did not intend to take up all of this time but I did feel it important to put on the record my views on how this Government is operating and what is wrong with it. I venture the opinion that by 1988, when we go back to the polls again, more of Canada's industrial base will be owned by foreigners and less of Canada's industrial base will be secure in the hands of Canadians who have a long and abiding interest in ensuring Canada's economic future.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the kinds of conditions which we have built up in the social, welfare and health care systems, which guaranteed that those who were in need could receive without being degraded, will be undermined by this administration. I remember prior to Christmas when we were in debate on universality—you will recall that yourself, Mr.

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Speaker—that Party argued that it did not really believe in doing away with universality, but we all know the truth. The truth was self-evident in the embarrassed looks on the faces of the various Ministers as they had to rise and try to explain their blurring out of ill conceived thoughts.

I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the hidden agenda of this administration is becoming less hidden with every passing day. That is where the public of Canada will look when it finally has to make its decisions. It is no accident, and I know you would agree with me, Mr. Speaker—if you were able to—that the Conservative administrations in the provinces of Canada are now beginning to fall like ten pins. They are falling because the Mulroney-led Government is not living up to the promises it made. It is not fulfilling what it said it had as a mandate. That will be what will ultimately undermine all of the provincial Conservative administrations, not only the administration in British Columbia led by Mr. Bennett and his Socreds, who are the kissing cousins of the Conservatives, in any case. That is what will ultimately undermine the credibility of this administration itself because it speaks out of both sides of its mouth. It will, on the one hand, say whatever is required to be said in the most melodious, most mellifluous tones, making sure it is said with all of the care necessary to have it clearly understood. But someone else can rise a day or two later and say something quite different.

It is not that this practice came to that Party only after it became elected as the Government of Canada. You will remember yourself, Mr. Speaker—you might not admit it because you cannot, but I remember quite well—that in the Parliament prior to this one, on every single issue without exception, there was a Conservative who spoke on each side of the question. It did not matter what the issue was, there was a Conservative for it and a Conservative against it. That is on the record, by the way. That is still the practice. I remember it because it afforded that Party such a wonderful opportunity. If someone wrote in and said he was in favour of lowering the taxes, the Conservative Party could send out the speech of one of its members who was in favour of it. If someone wrote in to say, "It's time we taxed the buggers more", the speech of the Hon. Member who agreed would be sent out. That Party was in favour of nuclear development and opposed to it at the same time. I can remember going through that exercise; it was an exercise to behold.

I say to the Liberal Party that it could have been more focused and more pointed in its motion. There are ways in which we could have brought about a more speedy recovery from the disastrous economic conditions which the Liberals left to the Conservatives. We could have used the methods which the Liberals have set out in their motion. But don't let yourself be fooled, Mr. Speaker, the agenda the Tories are following is the agenda the Tories believe in. It is an agenda which all 211 Conservatives support. It is an agenda based on further deprivation and economic chaos.