

a mandate or call an election. This is why it is impossible for us to extend the confidence which he requested because in our opinion and in that of millions of Canadians, he does no longer deserve it and this will serve him right.

Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Verchères): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be taking part in the debate this afternoon, a debate being held at a troubled time in the life of all Canadians, at a time when our economic situation is an extremely difficult one. I thought we would be hearing some concrete suggestions from our colleagues opposite. I listened carefully to the Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) and took quite a few notes, because the Hon. Member raised some good points. To summarize his speech, the Hon. Member attributed our recession and all our ills to a lack of productivity—and there I agree—poor administration, not enough funding for research and development, not enough consultation and finally, a lack of confidence on the part of Canadians in their government. Those were the five main points, I believe, that were raised by the Member for Rosedale. Then our friends from the New Democratic Party took the usual interventionist line on correcting the situation. The Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), and I am sorry to see him leave, told us in a lengthy speech that everything the government has been doing for the past fifteen years was wrong. For fifteen years, this government and our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Member for Mount Royal, have succeeded only in deceiving Canadians and leading them down the road to unemployment, welfare and a situation where we have lost all confidence in the future. The Member for Joliette wound up his speech with examples such as the 18 cent excise tax proposed by the Progressive Conservatives, and since I saw him the other day on a program where a friend, Marcel Masse, was one of the participants, I see that all these statements are part of a well-orchestrated plan. They are comparing the 18 cent tax to the 80 cent tax, to show Canadians how much money they would have saved by re-electing the Progressive Conservatives. They mention a housing tax credit which in 1979, when it was proposed, would have cost more than \$3 billion, claiming that if they had been re-elected they would have given us that tax credit.

I should not forget what was said by other opposition Members, and especially those who are squawking about the extent of the deficit. They are saying that less than a year ago we were projecting a deficit of \$10 billion and less than a year after the November 1981 projection, we now have to live with a deficit of \$23 to \$24 billion. At this point, it is hard to make sense out of the words of the Member for Joliette who proposed a \$3 billion tax credit and at the same time wanted to see this government reduce the deficit. It is not the first time the Official Opposition has been inconsistent.

I would like to go back to what was said by the Member for Rosedale and I must say I found it very interesting. This talk about productivity is true. Mrs. Sylvia Ostry of the OECD said only this morning that Canada had the worst productivity performance of all industrialized countries. She explained that this was due to the fact that since 1972, wages in Canada had increased 15 per cent, compared with other countries, and I think that is a problem to which all Members of this House,

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the provincial governments, the unions and the private sector, should address themselves immediately. The Member for Rosedale went on to discuss research and development. Mr. Speaker, there is no Member in this House more aware than the Member for Verchères that here in Canada we do not invest enough in research and development. However, there is a problem and a reality we must face, namely that as far as research and development are concerned, the percentage invested by all government levels in Canada compares advantageously with that invested by the governments of the Common Market or elsewhere. The weak spot, however, and at this point I would like some suggestions from the Member for Rosedale, is the investments made by the private sector. Less than 40 per cent of funds invested in research and development in Canada are provided by the private sector, while in other countries, this is more or less the share financed by governments and the rest is financed by the private sector.

What's that? Never mind. I have just come back from a tour during which I consulted experts throughout the world and I am awaiting suggestions from well-meaning members opposite as to what kind of tax system, what environment, what incentive should be provided in order to enable the private sector, that essential partner, to make a larger contribution to research and development. Indeed, this is the only hope for Canada as well for all other industrialized countries. We have no other option. I am aware, like the hon. member for Rosedale, that if we do not do our utmost, we shall be relegated to the position of drawers of water of de-industrialized and even developing countries, because at the time when we were able to export our natural resources, no other developing country could equal us in this regard, but this is no longer true today. Our minerals can be bought now from other developing countries at a lesser cost than from Canada. Thus, it is true that we shall have to make an effort and it is all the more urgent for us to do so as from now on, technological change will take place within the next decade. First, there was the agrarian era, then the industrial era, developments were taking place over hundreds of years, but today, one must think in terms of ten or even five years ahead, lest one is left behind and is never able to catch up with the leaders.

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However, we Canadians must bear in mind the fact that our market is limited to 23 million people and, although we are a potentially wealthy nation, we will have to develop closer ties with other countries. We will have to join forces with other countries such as ours, or with other groups such as the European Economic Community or the United States. We will have to co-operate with other nations whose concerns and needs are the same as ours. In that respect, I commend my colleague from Rosedale. I was pleased to hear him devote a major part of his speech this afternoon to this question which is of great concern to me. As for the hon. member for Joliette, who was holding the Prime Minister responsible for every evil, I would remind him gently that since 1974 I have made