

Therefore, in the interests of our economic potential, national unity and our future as a nation, we call upon this Prime Minister today to do what is best for our country. He should call an election immediately so that Canadians can once again be led by a government that holds their trust, their confidence and their support.

**Mr. Al Johnson (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the hon. member opposite. As she was speaking, I was reflecting that when I joined the Progressive Conservative Party in May 1988, I think they were around 24 or 25 per cent in the polls. I am sure that at that time there were many Liberals and NDP members howling for an election because they felt the Canadian people had lost confidence.

I find it rather sad when members of Parliament forget that Canadians elect their representatives to serve them through difficult times and to make difficult decisions. I mentioned earlier how recently the Reform Party in the west who have sold thousands and thousands of memberships on the basis that they were going to kill the GST are now saying that they are going to keep the GST. They are not only going to keep it but they are going to expand it to food and other things of that nature.

I just cannot quite understand this sense because we are in difficult times. The government has made some difficult decisions that have brought about very, very stable fundamentals in our economy. We now have inflation down to a very low level and low interest rates. The country is now in a situation where international organizations are predicting that we are going to be able to take off in the next year and really have a very strong recovery. I cannot understand that hon. members opposite would be saying that this is a time when the people of Canada are saying they have lost confidence in their government.

I see it much more that the people would just now be realizing how difficult the chore has been to deal with the debt the government from the other side left us and how difficult a time we have had to straighten things out.

### *Supply*

Surely they can wait a few more months to see the fruits of our labours.

**Ms. Callbeck:** Mr. Speaker, the government's record is what is at stake here, its record in dealing with the issues. As I said, we are going through a very difficult time in this country. There are a lot of important issues.

The public has completely lost faith. It has lost confidence. It has lost trust. When you get to the point where Canadians have lost hope, certainly we need an election. We need a new government. That is what I said when I spoke in the last 10 minutes. We need a new government that will come in and provide Canadians with hope and give them new ideas, give them confidence and trust that they have a government that is going to look after their interests and get them through this very difficult time in our history.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, just a short comment.

• (1600)

I want to mention, along with my colleague, that the government seems to be forgetting that it has had some 32 tax increases since assuming office. It has taken close to \$50 billion in new taxes out of the system. If there is any credit for the low inflation and low interest rates right now, we cannot ignore the people of Canada who have been as much a part of that as anyone else.

What my colleague has been saying and what we are saying is: Lighten up a little bit; let us get the spirit of this country working again. I cannot believe anyone on that side of the House is really opposed to that. Somehow they have to realize that they have caused enough pain and it is time to ease off.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, government members keep saying that Canada is the best country in the world. I agree. The UN study reached this conclusion on the basis of a number of factors. It comes as no surprise to us. We know what these factors are, but I would like to take a few moments to explain,