

surely lost the confidence of the reasonable members of this House and hopefully now also the people of this country.

An hon. Member: He should resign.

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I am going to be short and I hope snappy. Someone earlier in this debate said it was "curiouser and curiouser." It continues to be curiouser and curiouser. We have been listening very carefully to what various people would do in this House in response to what is admittedly a crisis situation. I am still waiting patiently, Mr. Speaker, to find out what the Conservative policy is in regard to this particular crisis.

We have gone on record and said what we would do in this very difficult situation. We would not have intervened at this point in respect to the dollar. I am waiting patiently now for the Conservative party to take this House into its confidence and tell us what their position is in this debate. I hope the next Conservative speaker will let us know. You would not want us to buy a pig in a poke. You cannot have it both ways in this debate, Mr. Speaker. It is time our Tory friends quit trying to have both sides of the debate. I want to find out where they stand in terms of this decision, and I have been here since the beginning of this debate.

Let me tell the House where the Liberal party stands. I listened very carefully, particularly to the two members from British Columbia. First of all, the hon. member for Skeena, the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mrs. Campagnolo), was delightful. We know where she stands. After all, there is no problem in British Columbia. The minister has told this House we have had a deliberate policy of depressing the dollar. She said we have kept that policy going and look at the wonderful things that have happened in British Columbia. We are selling lumber abroad. We are doing terrifically! She said it has been a deliberate policy to depress the dollar to 89 cents. She said "I cannot understand why they have intervened. What they should be doing is letting it slide further. Imagine if it slid to 75 cents and then down to 50 cents; we will be selling lumber like you wouldn't believe! We will be the richest part of the whole world." That was the position of the Liberal party as stated by the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). It is not lack of confidence; it is deliberate policy.

Mr. Paproski: It is a sport.

Mr. Leggatt: It is a sport, and we have been doing remarkably well at it. What we should have been doing tonight is congratulating the government for the fantastic job they have done in deflating the dollar, according to the minister. The minister had some ghostwriter write her speech. She did not write it. It was written by Grace McCarthy of British Columbia, the Social Credit provincial secretary. I knew there was a coalition and there it is. No one else but Grace McCarthy could have written a speech like that. Apparently everything is coming up roses in British Columbia. Things are so good.

Finance

I want to tell that minister, and I wish she were here, that unemployment is up, bankruptcies are up, inflation is up in B.C. British Columbia has not had it so bad for as long as I can remember. It has the third highest unemployment in Canada, yet the minister is saying that her government's great policy in depressing the dollar has made things so great in British Columbia. Oh, the Social Credit coalition is in action! Half of the cabinet are ex-Liberals. They all resigned and got together and decided they had to have this new coalition government to move British Columbia forward.

Then we hear the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson) make a most incredible argument. This argument really blows my mind. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, why the dollar is in bad shape in Canada? The hon. member for Skeena said "We put it there; we want it at 89 cents." Then the hon. member for Comox-Alberni got up and said "Darn it, it is too low; you know, it is that Dave Barrett; he is the one who has destroyed the dollar". So it is Dave Barrett's bad government that caused the dollar to go all the way down to 89 cents. Poor old Davey, I did not know how bad that guy really was. In a short three year term in office he destroyed the country and the dollar.

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British Columbia will never recover from that terrible bout of socialism. The poor old hon. member for Comox-Alberni is very nervous about it. I will tell you why those two members are nervous and are grabbing on to what is left of Bill Bennett's coattails. They know they are going down the tube in the next election. That is why there is that element of nervousness. You could hear their voices quivering; you could hear the high pitch.

This was a sad evening for those of us who appreciate debate from the members from British Columbia. We are going to be sorry to lose their voices. The arguments are really curious and strange in this debate.

Mr. Benjamin: Now pick on the Tories. It is their turn.

Mr. Leggatt: No. I want to agree with the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens). Very early on he pointed out that the real problem lies in the service account deficit. I could not agree more. The figures he quoted are accurate. In 1975, the service account deficit was \$1.9 billion. In 1978 it will be \$4 billion. The projected deficit for 1980 is \$9.1 billion. If you take our manufactured goods and our raw resources, we are selling more than we are buying. It is the service account that is creating the softness of the Canadian dollar.

We are not going to solve that kind of problem with some long-term strategy. The reason that deficit account is running so high and continues to get worse is because we are paying the absentee landlords too much rent. In fact, the amount we are paying in profits, dividends and interest, both public and private interest, is too high. We cannot eliminate the massive kind of private borrowing that has gone on in Canada in terms of importation of equity capital.