

The Address—Mr. Rompkey

I ask the Hon. Member not to talk to me about the bare cupboard. As far as the deficit cuts are concerned, Mr. Speaker, yes I agree with them. But I am saying to the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) that the Conservatives are going about that in the wrong way. The Conservatives are cutting the wrong things. If the Hon. Member for St. John's West is prepared to stand up in Newfoundland and defend the cutting of unemployment insurance and to defend all the other cuts, I would like him to come to my riding, because if he does I will be in for a sixth term, Mr. Speaker. I hope he will come and defend what the Government has done.

As far as northern allowances are concerned, it was this government in the last measure taken that said there would be no taxation on northern benefits. That was a definitive statement. That is the situation. It was not the opposition that put up a fight. It was those of us from the North who said to the government of the day, "This is what you must do." And we were listened to—

Mr. Crosbie: Who was the government?

Mr. Rompkey: —unlike members from the Atlantic area who were not listened to in this budget and in this Throne Speech.

Mr. Crosbie: You were the government. You were a minister in the government. You were speaking to yourself.

Mr. Rompkey: People in the Atlantic area are the forgotten people. As far as the forestry centre in Corner Brook is concerned, the Hon. Member says, "yes, we have the Kruger Mill going". The agreement for the Kruger Mill was signed when we were the Government of Canada. Like a lot of other agreements, ribbon-cuttings, and press conferences, the Conservatives are taking credit now for things that were done when we were the Government of Canada. The money that was put into the Kruger Mill—

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The time allocated for questions and comments is now expired.

[English]

The ten-minute period has concluded. Let me say to the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) that in future if he would like to be recognized I would very much appreciate it if he would rise as soon as the speaker has finished. I will then recognize him.

Mr. Allmand: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. There is no requirement that Members rise immediately after a speaker has finished speaking. I was only prompted to ask my question after hearing the question put by the Hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie). I think that is my right. If he had not taken so much time I would have had time to put my question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would now recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney).

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating my friends and colleagues, the Hon. Member for Sarnia Lambton (Mr. James) and the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Ms. Jacques) on their excellent beginnings to this debate. I would also like to congratulate all new Members on both sides of the House on their election and to say to them and to all Members of this House how proud I am to be part of the Thirty-third Parliament of Canada. I am well aware that the honour of being here is a privilege that has to be earned every day. I am grateful to the electors of Ottawa West for the confidence they expressed in me in such overwhelming numbers on September 4.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, as a long-time resident of Ottawa, Ottawa West is an interesting and exciting community. It is an attractive community, so attractive in fact that I am pleased to say several Members of this House and one or two Cabinet Ministers reside in Ottawa West while they are in the capital.

Ottawa West comprises an area of about 26 square kilometres in the west end of the City of Ottawa. The eastern part of the riding is visible from the windows of the Government Lobby directly behind me. The riding follows the historic Ottawa River along the beautiful and well-travelled Ottawa River Parkway to the Ottawa-Nepean boundary in the west and then south to Baseline Road and east to the Central Experimental Farm, the only farm in my riding. I have the honour of having as the only farmer in my riding the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise).

Ottawa West is a largely residential riding which boasts a population of approximately 90,000 and a labour force, as of the last census, of 48,520 people.

Many of my constituents are in the Public Service of Canada; many are in the commercial and business industries, particularly in the high technology sector. I will have more to say about the Public Service and high technology later.

English is the language most frequently spoken in the homes of my constituency. It is spoken by about 86.5 per cent of the people.

[Translation]

French is the language spoken in 7.4 per cent of the homes in Ottawa West; in 6 per cent of the homes in my riding, a language other than French or English is spoken, and 26 per cent of the population speak both French and English.

[English]

In terms of formal education 14.5 per cent of Ottawa West residents, aged 15 and older in 1981, had a university degree.

I am particularly honoured to represent Ottawa West in this House because it has been represented by so many capable members in the past and, indeed, by several prominent figures in Canadian history, including two distinguished Prime Ministers of Canada. Both Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Robert Borden represented my area under its former name of Carleton. So did George Drew when he was here as Leader of Her