

Adjournment Debate

the floor of this House of Commons to be arguing over the government policy.

Fiscal responsibility, of course, is why we have been elected since 1984. The free trade agreement was negotiated to protect the workers. At least I respect the fact that the Leader of the Official Opposition says that he will renegotiate the agreement. But what parts of the agreement will they renegotiate?

The GST, which they wish to throw out, as Canadians know we have to keep our social net of programs that we have. They will replace it with what?

I would say in the short time you allow me that when these gentlemen from the opposite side—and I do say gentlemen—ask the government and when they are talking to the Canadian public about this, our answer very clearly since 1984 is that we must face up to reality. For them to put in the smoke and the mirrors is not good enough. I would ask the Leader of the Official Opposition concerning the GST, what percentage would he put in with a new tax and how would he impose it?

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, my question is concerning the bill, Bill C-21. I would like to ask the hon. member whether he believes that this bill is going to solve Canada's debt and deficit problem? How would he address that problem? It is a very simple question.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague on a very intelligent, a very prudent and a very wise question. I will be equally wise and prudent as the hon. member and respond to him in this way. No, it will not. This bill will do very little, if anything, in terms of the debt.

I want to thank the hon. member opposite, who stood in this place, like I, and condemned those socialists, those old CCF-NDPers coming in this House, full of hypocrisy, as I am sure the hon. member would want to agree to, and making scandalous comments about the role of the Official Opposition and, to a certain extent, that of the government.

I want to say to my hon. colleague, he should be aware that when he talks about the GST, that it was his government which inherited a debt, they say, of some \$187 billion and the debt today is well over \$400 billion. So something must have happened over the last eight years.

We have had the proliferation of taxes, numbering in excess of 32, on Canadians. The Tories said they were putting those taxes in to raise additional revenue but the deficit has doubled under the Conservatives. The minister of tourism has entered the Chamber. Perhaps he will want to say a few words as well, but this is the government which promised in 1984 and 1988 that they were going to be prudent managers of the public purse.

We have seen anything but prudent management of the public purse. We have seen all sorts of examples of waste in this government which we have brought to the attention of this House of Commons. I would only hope that members opposite would amend their ways as soon as possible. Give Canadians the opportunity that they seek so overwhelmingly and that is the opportunity to go to the polls so that the government will then be in a position to prove that its case is right and our case is wrong. I would love that opportunity.

• (1700)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I declare the motion agreed to on division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

FISHERIES

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, can there be anybody left in this country who has not heard that the Atlantic fishery is in a very deep crisis, that our fish stocks are being pillaged, that men and women by the thousands in Newfoundland and in Nova Scotia have had their source of income cut off through no fault of their own?