

*Supply*

we believed them. And what did they do once they got back into office? In less than a year, the price of gasoline increased by 65 cents, not 18, contrary to what they had promised.

During their term in office, from 1980 to 1985, the deficit rose from \$13 billion to \$38 billion. Sixteen months went by and no budget. In spite of this, Mr. Trudeau was travelling around the world. They were spending money left and right. Apparently they felt the need to interfere in all provincial jurisdictions to counter the rise of the sovereignist movement. Public expenditures were about \$76 billion, but gradually rose to just over \$100 billion.

So much for the Liberal government. Is it surprising that we feel compelled, as the official opposition, to enjoin the government to remember the less fortunate, to think of its election promises and the promises made in the red book? We have to make the government realize and state publicly that we remember.

I see members of the governing party lower their heads, and well they might. They are embarrassed in their ridings. They go to their ridings every weekend and are ashamed of all of these cuts.

Take the first budget, for example. They had so much hope after being elected. But no, the first budget made an incredible, unacceptable attack on the unemployed. And yet these same Liberals while in opposition had cried murder over the Valcourt reform. And the cuts made by the Minister of Finance in the last budget are 5, 10, 15 times worse than those made by Minister Valcourt in the former government. Such criticisms have been completely forgotten.

The Hon. Minister of Human Resources Development cried murder when there was talk of touching social programs. Now, he will deal the fatal blow to these programs. He proudly defends this, completely forgetting the commitments he made while in opposition and during the election campaign.

We could also talk about the Liberal Party of the 1980s, which has not changed, is still run by the same people, who broke all their commitments, even betrayed their people, for example the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in order to rise to the leadership of, or to an important position in, the party. So in 1980 they said: "Do not back sovereignty. This could jeopardize our seats. The dollar will fall to 80 cents if you do". At the time, the dollar was worth \$1.03. Suddenly after the Liberals came to power, the dollar sank to 69 cents.

That is the Liberal Party, and the same people are still running it. Can we believe them when they say they will table a fair budget? Never. So, we openly say to them: "The eyes of the

public in Canada and Quebec are on you. They are watching you. Your commitments are still printed in the red book and you will have to fulfil them. We beseech you to find concrete solutions". As the hon. member for Joliette said earlier, we recommended 10 ways to clean up the government's finances, to trim the fat, to make people who have the means pay and to unearth those who bury their money in tax havens. We have repeated this many times. We will see whether you will take into consideration our suggestions or if you will continue to break your promises.

Now, let us recall the last speech on free trade that the Prime Minister made in Montreal. He warned Quebecers that they will be shut out of free trade. However, when the vote on free trade was on, the Prime Minister travelled Canada-wide to preach against it, to spew out lies about it. Now, he warns Quebecers that if they declare sovereignty they may not be covered under the free trade agreement, which he now considers as an element that is essential to Canada's survival, even though he denied this throughout the 1988 campaign which was based on free trade. Two different messages, one for the election campaign, one for when he came to power. The Liberals as they have always been.

• (1720)

I will end on the following note: As a Bloc Québécois member and as a representative of Quebec, I remind my fellow citizens, Quebecers, that trusting this government, trusting these politicians, has always led to disappointment. The time is long overdue for us to take over full power to tax and to pick and choose the services we want to share with this federal state.

**Mr. André Caron (Jonquière, BQ):** Madam Speaker, I congratulate my colleague from Richelieu on his heartfelt speech in which he shared his past experience with the House. Of course, he raised points denouncing the behaviour of our Liberal friends opposite who, when they were in opposition, criticized the Tories on the issue of cuts to social programs and often on the tax system. He told us clearly that the Liberal Party was not the same after the election.

I wish to ask my colleague from Richelieu if, on the basis of his experience in federal politics, he could explain to us how a party like the federal Liberal Party, which initiated major social programs, which used to pay lip service to the need to defend the most disadvantaged in society, is now cutting UI benefits and transfer payments to the provinces for social assistance and education, while at the same time closing its eyes to the fact that some members of society do not pay the taxes they owe the government. The question I want to ask my colleague is this: Based on his experience, how did the federal Liberal Party reach this point?