

Gouvernement with an unrestrained arrogance towards Canadians in general, and taxpayers in particular. Mr. Speaker, they learned the hard way on September 4!

Mr. Speaker, this morning, I was very surprised to see, sitting side by side, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) who fathered the Quebec deficit and the Leader of the Opposition, the Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner) who fathered the federal deficit. They were chatting about the Budget!

Mr. Hudon: An expanding vacuum!

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): Yes, an expanding vacuum, as my hon. colleague for Beauharnois—Salaberry (Mr. Hudon) says. The Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides was saying almost word for word: This morning I picked at random a few editorials reflecting the harmful impact of the Conservative Budget. Then I realized to what extent Liberals were indulging in demagoguery and had a very short memory. This is why I checked some papers and I shall quote, as did my colleague for Laval-des-Rapides, from an article published on February 16, 1984 in *Le Droit*, the day after the last Liberal Budget. It says: "Business and labour groups are disappointed with Mr. Lalonde's Budget. The President of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society, who made very harsh criticisms, considers that Budget as an electoral and partisan exercise of Liberal propaganda."

This afternoon, I heard the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) say that the Government had neglected the workers and the unemployed. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 1984, the day following the last Liberal Budget, the Ottawa daily *Le Droit* was saying in large characters: "Lalonde ignores the unemployed. The federal budget presented last night in the Commons contains little to help the unemployment situation, and the rate is expected to remain at around 11 per cent next year."

Mr. Speaker, this came from an irresponsible Government. It came from a Liberal Government. We have seen the results.

In *La Presse* of that same day, February 16, 1984, Mr. Speaker, the columnist Laurier Cloutier wrote: "Mr. Lalonde's Budget paves the way to a new recession. The budget presented by the federal Minister of Finance, Marc Lalonde, will cause a new increase in inflation and interest rates within a year, and a new recession at the end of next year. Several spokesmen for the business community, after a first evaluation of yesterday's budget, said they feared new economic problems in the short term..." That was all about the last Liberal budget.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, on September 4, 1984, the Canadians rejected the Liberals, otherwise, we would have had a recession in 1985. We would be going through an economic slump, because of an irresponsible Government which knew only how to spend, and not how to manage wisely the Canadian economy.

The Budget—Mr. Champagne (Champlain)

Mr. Speaker, I will mention again that 1984 Liberal Budget, because the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (M. Garneau) was saying this morning that the "opposition was disappointed and skeptical", but this time I will quote the leader of the New Democratic Party who said that "the unemployed will not profit from all the talk about recovery, as more than 80 per cent of the tax cuts contained in the Budget are targeted to people in higher income brackets."

Mr. Speaker, looking at the leader of the Opposition and the leader of the New Democratic Party, I realize one thing: since 1984, and even 1980 for the latter, the only thing they can say is that it is inequitable and unfair. Mr. Speaker, it is precisely then that we realize that two opposition parties are not able to renew themselves, to contribute actively and positively to the development of the Canadian economy, when we see them, particularly the New Democratic Party recently, sit in this House, prevent the normal course of the business of the House, keep us here until 3 o'clock a.m. on matters of paramount importance for the Canadian economy, that we see to what extent the sheer partisan attitude of those two opposition parties prevails over the rational pursuit of economic and social development for the well-being of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, we heard about regional problems this morning. I heard my colleague the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) say that the federal Government had done nothing to help the regions. I would like to remind him of one thing: federal-provincial agreements have been signed, particularly with Quebec, and it should be stressed; we signed agreements on forestry. We signed federal-provincial agreements on mining, on agriculture this week, on economic and regional development under ERDA. We signed agreements which at last enable Quebec, with the help of the federal Government, jointly and constructively, to ensure that our economic development, our creation of permanent jobs, that the hope to give young people a good and stable future now materialize, because there are two responsible governments, one being the federal Government. It was a Progressive Conservative Government which was not afraid to sit down with the provinces and negotiate to see exactly what they wanted. Of course, under the Liberal Government, Mr. Speaker, this was not done because as we know... There are indeed some Liberal members who are gentlemen but I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the arrogance of the Liberal government was such that the Quebec premier was told that he was just a hot dog eater. I remember that there were 74 Quebec members in this House who after years of negotiations with Quebec were on the verge of signing a constitution which allowed us to be proud of our country; but they turned around and knifed them in the back and kept them apart from the rest of the country. Such was, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government which the Canadian people defeated in September 1984.

Mr. Speaker, when we see a responsible government—

Mr. Prud'homme: Responsible?