Government Orders

into office, to 13.5 per cent? Was it that it really was not that bad after all?

Mr. Valcourt: Mr. Speaker, let me tell the hon. member something.

First, it is abundantly clear to me why this member would not be in business earning a living. If he pictures the real world as he just did, I could answer with the same rhetoric. If I thought that Canadians were as stupid as he does—

Mr. Gauthier: You're too stupid. You can't answer the question.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Valcourt: That is the Liberal way. Shut them up. Don't let them speak. It is the Liberal way.

I could answer back. The member says the first step is which category, one, two, three or four? Today it is much harder because one has to figure out at the cash counter which of the 22,000 exemptions may be applicable.

Mr. Gauthier: That's nonsense.

Mr. Valcourt: It is as much nonsense as the nonsense that he is spouting today. Why would the chambers of commerce—are these people—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, they remind me —

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I would appreciate the co-operation of both sides of the House, and I would ask the minister to finish answering the question. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Valcourt: Mr. Speaker, some people just don't understand, and that's a fact. Some people don't and won't understand. It's easy to try and fool people. The Liberals are past masters at that, and you are going to pay for it, because the kind of rhetoric Canadians are hearing today is the same as they heard in 1988, before the election campaign. During the campaign on free trade, they said this was going to be a terrible thing and that the sun would no longer rise! All I can say is that on January 1, people will realize that the poor—people with an income of less than $30,000—will go to the store and have a little more money in their pockets to pay for their groceries. It won't cost them as much. That is the answer to his question, Mr. Speaker.

• (1630)

[*English*]

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I had not imagined that our motion would precipitate such evident panic and hysteria.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McCurdy: But there you have it. In panic he flees the room, the hon. minister of fisheries.

I just want to say this. Nobody on this side ever accused Canadians of being stupid or assumed that they were, not even the 15 per cent who support the government.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, you will recognize me as one of those tie-wearing New Democrats. We do not take the same position as leather-jacket-wearing motor cycle macho Conservatives who would drive over Canadians no matter what they may want.

I think the minister suffers a crude and uncomprehending understanding of the nature of this country. The Canadian people are angry. The Prime Minister said, and I come close to quoting him, that Canadians no longer trust politicians. He said the people believe that politicians no longer listen. It is clear that the politician about whom he was talking was himself. That was the politician who has refused to listen to the people.

My question to the minister of fisheries—which I suspect he will not answer because I do not see him there to answer the question—is why is it not possible for the government party to listen to Canadians and to make no assumptions about who is stupid and who is not. Even those whom he thinks are really stupid nevertheless have particular aspirations and wishes for their country and for themselves. I think that the thing that the government can do, and I would ask why his government does not do it, is to resign and allow the people of Canada, none of them stupid, to have a voice in their future. If that happens, I suspect that future will be in the hands of those of us on this side of the House who wear ties.

Mr. Fulton: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear from you, Mr. Speaker, about the propriety of a minister who stood in the House and dished out filthy insults for 30 minutes and then left during the designated period for questions and answers.