

the time was right for lavish political promises because the public debt was so high. We knew it and the Prime Minister knew it.

I would like to cite the Prime Minister as quoted in the *Financial Post* of March 4, 1984. He said we must—

—deal with some degree of prudence and frugality with public spending, which is completely out of hand.

When I opened the campaign in Edmonton I set out clearly for the people of Canada the fact that the huge public debt meant that 33 cents out of every tax dollar collected by the people of Canada through their federal Government is now necessary to pay interest. Therefore I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservative Party knew the facts, the Prime Minister knew the facts, but they went ahead anyway and made those promises. We will remind the Government on every relevant occasion about those commitments to the people of Canada and we will remind our fellow citizens about them as well.

I do not want to anticipate, nor do the rules allow me to anticipate, what the Prime Minister, the right hon. gentleman, will say this afternoon. I have heard his colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), and we can hear him tomorrow. He will say, as he has already said, that the cupboard is bare. He will say that the situation is, to use his words, "even worse than we had anticipated". That simply will not wash.

Let me quote Allan Maslove, Director of Carleton University's School of Public Administration. In his words the bare cupboard theory is "a bunch of nonsense". The Conservatives knew the situation. They had the same numbers that we had and they were able to see the same forecasts that were available to us in both the private and public sector. But they chose to ignore them.

[Translation]

I also said during the election campaign that if the Progressive Conservatives ever came to power, they would have only three choices. They would either have to renege on their promises, raise taxes or cut our social programs. Mr. Speaker, they never had the slightest intention of keeping those promises, because they knew the state the country's finances were in.

[English]

They might say on the basis of the polls that they like to receive that promises are just words. That only adds to the cynicism with which Canadians tend to view their elected representatives. I tend to believe that it is a question of trust. It goes to the heart of a parliamentary democracy that governments should do what they say they will do, and if they do not they are not fulfilling the mandate which was given to them by the people of Canada.

The Government is now faced with these three options: renege or welch on those promises, raise taxes, or cut into our social programs. That is the position in which the Government has put itself. That is the position about which we will remind the people of Canada. There are a lot of IOUs out there.

The Address—Rt. Hon. John Turner

I wonder what Peter Lougheed and Premier Devine are saying to the new Prime Minister. I am sure that the Province of Alberta expects the Government to keep its word on market prices for energy. We will wait and see what the Premier of Ontario has to say about that, if he is still saying anything about anything. You can be sure, Mr. Speaker, that the big blue machine that was donated free of charge for the campaign will soon come calling here on the Hill for some of its demands. We will be interested to see how the Prime Minister responds to that.

What has the Government been doing since September 17? There is an old saying which is: "Actions speak louder than words". There are many words in the Throne Speech but very little action. However, in the case of the Government, it is also a case of say one thing but do another.

The Conservatives promised us lean and efficient government. Those were their words. They have given us the largest federal cabinet in history. Restraint is for others. Restraint is for ordinary Canadians, not for that gang. It is the largest government in the history of this country.

I know that the cabinet choices were difficult. There are the blue Tories and the red Tories. To use the vocabulary of the Prime Minister's friend, Margaret Thatcher, the Government has its "wets" and its "drys". If you look, Mr. Speaker—and you should—it is plain that most of the wets in the caucus ended up high and dry.

It is true that the Government has tried to cut down. It has eliminated the foreign affairs and defence committee of cabinet. There are already winners and losers. To use the Prime Minister's words, he promised Canadians "jobs, jobs, jobs". What did we get? Cut, cut, cut and freeze, freeze, freeze.

The Prime Minister said at Prince Albert as he announced the great Prince Albert charter—and I alluded to this earlier in my question—that "You are going to see tens upon tens of thousands of jobs being created just as quickly as a new government can be sworn in". Where are those jobs? What did the Conservatives do? The minute that they were sworn in their policy was to cut, cut, cut and freeze, freeze and freeze. The Government froze the Special Recovery Projects that were necessary to get the economy moving and put Canadians back to work. It killed the First Chance program which would have given on-the-job training to 100,000 young Canadians a year. In its place it produced a pilot program for 3,000 or 4,000 young people, as the Prime Minister said this afternoon. While we offered a first chance for young Canadians, the Government is offering little more than a fat chance. It says not to bother it now but come back later; it says: "Let us see you in the Spring".

The Government is closing embassies and consulates around the world. I see some diplomats in the House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I would think that the gentleman I have in mind got reconfirmed yesterday. We do not know the purpose for these actions and perhaps the right