

I have a lot of other quotes here, but I think I have made my first point clear. There is an important issue here. I cannot stand here, nor can any other member, and say that I am right, because I do not know. All I know is what we have had from government advisers over the past 30 years has been wrong every time. Look at what happened to Walter Harris, Donald Fleming, and Mitchell Sharp. Look what happened to poor Benson.

Mr. Railton: Look what happened to Joe Clark.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Look at what happened to Donald Macdonald and John Turner. Look at what is now happening to a very fine person, the present Minister of Finance, who comes here and says the most horrible things. The hon. member for Don Valley said that he lost credibility by saying these things. It is worse than that. The fact is that by saying one thing and doing another for ten years, the people of Canada no longer trust the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). That lack of trust is in others too because they hang with the Prime Minister. He is going to leave them twisting in the wind.

Oh, those poor members from Toronto! I can see their problem. There is nothing you can do when a city turns pathological and makes up its mind that it cannot trust the Prime Minister. It will chuck out every Liberal candidate, good or bad. That is not a matter of satisfaction because, as human beings, you hate to see anybody get knocked off when it is not his fault. However, do not come into this House screaming and yelling at us because we simply ask to look at the problem to see whether we can come up with enough information to make a better decision.

We know this is a lame duck government. It is carrying on because it does not have the strength or the will to bury itself. It is a walking dead. They are too fat to fight and too frightened to run. They are paralysed with panic. If I keep this up much longer, people will think I am the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie).

I want to make one point clear. Early last fall the leader of the Conservative party stated in Vancouver that he thought if Canadians had to compete with Americans as individuals, our tax level should be the same. A few weeks later during the by-elections, he said that if we formed the government he would like to make the interest rate on mortgages and taxes by municipalities deductible under the Income Tax Act as it is in the United States. You should have heard the yelling in Toronto. Newspapers, pundits, civil servants and, yes, Liberal candidates all dutifully yelling this is terrible, it is the end of the world. When the votes came in, 50 per cent were Conservative. The people had gotten the message. The significance of that has not sunk in over there.

What our leader was expressing was a policy of reducing taxes to get growth. It was a policy of reducing the taxes to balance the budget. If you reduce taxes when you have unemployed and unused plant capacity, more people go out to work, more taxes are paid, and the budget is balanced. My closing words are a quote.

Currency Devaluation

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member. I have allowed him an extra minute. His time has expired. Does the House give consent to allowing the hon. member to complete his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Westmount (Mr. Johnston) is seeking the floor. I have to recognize him.

Mr. Donald J. Johnston (Westmount): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I misunderstood the purpose of the debate today. I have been waiting patiently since three o'clock in anticipation of somebody in the opposition putting forward some ideas. I attended the committee meeting when governor Bouey was questioned. In fact I questioned him myself. A number of opposition members who are here this evening also had the opportunity of questioning governor Bouey.

The policy of the government and of the governor of the Bank of Canada requires no defence here today. The policy is well known. It has been explained repeatedly. I had assumed that we would hear today even a germ of an idea as an alternative policy that could form the basis of a debate. I have heard nothing.

I listened to Mr. Gillies—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Johnston (Westmount):—a professional economist, attack the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) personally. I heard him attack the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien). He declared the Minister of Finance is the worst in the history of Canada—

Mr. Gillies: An understatement.

Mr. Johnston (Westmount):—that the economy is in a situation of crisis—

Mr. Gillies: True.

Mr. Johnston (Westmount):—and that off the Hill there is no one who believes the Minister of Finance has any credibility.

Mr. Gillies: True.

Mr. Johnston (Westmount): I am often off the Hill. It is apparent to me that the people I talk to do not feel that way at all.

Mr. Gillies: Neither one of them?

Mr. Johnston (Westmount): I think that the Tories must talk to each other and the Liberals must talk to the people.

Mr. Gillies: The only Liberals we can find are on the Hill.

Mr. Johnston (Westmount): The only ideas I heard read into the record by members of the opposition have come from