

Export Development Act

priorities on that side of the House. No wonder the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) did not go to the people. I remember the Prime Minister going down to Toronto and holding Mr. Evans' hand. He is going to lose as well. In any event, the election machinery was in place and rolling. Apparently those in government felt they had bamboozled the Canadian public for just about ten years and this was another opportunity to do the same.

An hon. Member: They were all oiled up.

Mr. Alexander: They were oiled up and the machinery was moving once again. The Messiah over there was going to bring about national unity. The Messiah was going to wrestle inflation to the ground again. The Messiah was going to create—

An hon. Member: Come off it.

Mr. Alexander: We hear from the Minister of State (Environment) (Mr. Marchand). We do not hear from him often because he does not understand his job. That party over there was saying to the Canadian people that they can solve our problems. I know they always feel they have control in Quebec. That is what the Prime Minister thinks but I do not know whether he still has Quebec in hand after the sales tax argument we heard around here over the past several weeks. That government over there lowered the boom on that debate. It brought in closure and cut off criticism by the opposition. Hon. members opposite like to interrupt and feel that we should not be allowed to speak. I intend to continue to speak in the hope of saying something for the edification of the people, not for that group over there. They do not want me to talk. They do not want the opposition to talk. They cannot stand criticism. I intend to continue to talk and I will ask for extra time if necessary.

An hon. Member: Tell us more about the Messiah.

Mr. Alexander: The Messiah was saying that his party would bring about national unity. Has he forgotten that he has been in parliament as Prime Minister and the leader of this country for ten years? Because he has brought about national disunity. To make a long story short, he did not solve inflation. There has been no growth. Our growth will be lucky to hit the 3 per cent level in spite of the fact the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) says it will be 5 per cent. We cannot believe him, however, because every statement which his officials give to him with respect to growth, employment and inflation has been wrong, wrong in such a way that no one can plan anything because no one knows what is going on.

● (1752)

What I am trying to say is that Canadians have lost confidence in this government. It is confidence which they thought they had until the polls came in vis-à-vis the province of Ontario; then they were shocked. They ran. They were all geared up and the machinery was well oiled until they saw that

[Mr. Alexander.]

Ontario does not love the Prime Minister any more. He has had the biscuit. This government cannot bamboozle the Canadian people any more.

The strange thing about it is that there are only two ministers here, the Minister of State (Environment), who does not know what this bill is about—

Mr. Marchand: I know as much about it as you do.

Mr. Alexander: —and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen), who has a lot of problems. I do feel sorry for him because he has so many problems with respect to creating jobs. But I look at my old friend the Minister of Employment and Immigration and I say, "Doesn't he understand what this bill is all about?" Why doesn't he stand up and say "Well, I've looked at it, it looks good but I really don't know; we think that in the short run it is good, or in the short run it is bad." I say that in the short run it may be good but in the long run this bill is a monstrosity. The members on the other side should at least have the decency and courtesy to stand up and speak on it. They are just looking at me. I know I am handsome. I say to them, "Don't look at me; read your bill and understand what is going on."

Mr. Marchand: How are you voting on the bill?

Mr. Alexander: There is the Minister of State (Environment) again. We only have to follow our spokesman. The spokesman knows what he is going to do, as I always do when I have the carriage of a bill. We over here know what we are going to do, but what are the people opposite doing? What do they think of this bill that is trying to bamboozle the Canadian people out of \$26 billion? Is the Minister of State (Environment), Mr. Speaker, going to stand up and talk instead of sitting in his chair? That is no way to debate; you have to be a man or woman and stand up in this House and let your thoughts come out. There has not been one member of the Liberal party who has had the decency or courage to stand up and say, "We will give the government position." Usually there is at least a parliamentary secretary who will stand up and give the government's point of view. That is the most I have heard the Minister of State (Environment) say in this House, and he is always speaking from his chair. One of these days, Mr. Speaker, we are going to hear—

Mr. Lumley: Stonewalling.

Mr. Alexander: Stonewalling. There is the parliamentary secretary who bamboozled the provinces with respect to Bill C-56. Some of the provinces were blackmailed into going along with the bill, and before they knew it they were paying the people of Quebec \$85 and forgetting the poor people. That is the attitude which the parliamentary secretary has, and yet they say that they are treating all provinces equally.

This bill is worthy of more comment, particularly from the Liberal side. The Canadian people are asking themselves why the government is paying more attention to offshore industry than to the plight of our own industry which in the long run will make this country more viable and bring about an econo-