

in the sensitivity of the programs of this government under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

Liberals throughout this country promote the view that minority interests must be respected and put in place in terms of our laws and our structures. That is what in the end will win over any threat of separatism in this country. That is what in the end will restore confidence on this vulnerable question of separatism, without having in the short run a great deal to do about it in terms of convincing those abroad that the threat is in hand.

**Mr. Alexander:** You had ten years to do all of this.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition ignores is the exact value of a dollar to those who export, because exports reflect higher costs which may have been built into our wage and price structures. Certainly the fishermen of this country should bless the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc) for the 200-mile limit and for prosperity in their industry.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lang:** They are benefiting by the price they get for their fish today compared to other costs they have to incur in Canada. The Saskatchewan farmer and those throughout the prairies and other regions of this country benefit when they export agricultural products and receive 45 to 50 cents more per bushel of wheat because of the change in the value of the dollar.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are real reflections of the need there was in Canada for an adjustment to the dollar, having regard to our wage and price levels which have gone too high. Those were the needs which were faced with wage and price controls and which are now being faced with ongoing programs to try to ensure that restraint by those who would take too much out of the economy is the order of the day.

Many spokesmen in the real world have said how well our economy is doing when compared to other countries. In the years to come when the separatist threat is put behind us that fact will stand us in good stead in the kinds of jobs we continue to promote and in the continued growth of the economy.

No motion lacking in substance and wrong on the procedural issue which may be put forward by the Leader of the Opposition can conceal the fact that a great deal has been going right with the economy of this country when considered against the background of a world which has been and is troubled. This government will continue to move toward policies which are free and liberal and which give people as much freedom as possible in the management of their own affairs, their decision to travel, that give as much freedom—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Minister of Transport but his allotted time has expired. He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

### *Currency Devaluation*

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, we have just had a walking and talking illustration of what is wrong with this country by the minister of almost everything—the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang), the minister of the wheat board, the minister of justice, the minister of manpower, employment and immigration. He is minister of everything but master of nothing. The minister has just lectured us and I will try to put what he said in reasonable terms. I followed with great care the brilliant, sophisticated reasoning just presented to us. Apparently the fact that hamburger costs \$2 per pound, that interest rates stand at 11.25 per cent, that the dollar is down to 83 cents, and that gasoline costs over \$1 per gallon has absolutely nothing to do with this government. This is to be blamed, on the one hand, on the opposition or, on the other, on René Lévesque.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** It was a real tour de force, a put up job by a former dean of law. In my view, the reason for the election of the PQ government was because the people of Quebec, like the people of Canada, got sick and tired of a Liberal government.

• (1630)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is the reason. A few years ago a man named Bourassa from the province of Quebec took the same attitude that this government is now taking with Canada as a whole, specifically that everything they do is right. Whatever problems emerged, Mr. Bourassa blamed the provincial separatists for them, he did not blame his own government. This is the same attitude that the federal Liberals are now taking by putting the blame on the opposition. I notice the minister, with his characteristic modesty and consideration of the opposition, has just left the chamber.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Broadbent:** If there is anything that a Liberal cannot stand to hear, it is the truth.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Whenever it hits them in the face they leave.

His was an incredible performance. I want to say to the minister that he has convinced his backbenchers if no one else in the country.

**Mr. Paproski:** They have gone also.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The subject matter of the motion I thought we were debating was associated directly with the problems of the Canadian dollar. I had hoped to hear, particularly from the minister who was filling in for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien), some solid defence of the principal instruments that the government has seized upon to prop up the