

which will undermine the provinces' capacity to fulfil the basic needs of our society.

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, among some of the more regrettable actions by this government in pursuit of its ideological path, regardless of the realities that the people of this country are faced with, this particular policy is the most damaging of all. Not only is it a restriction of the historical attempt of a central government to keep a sense of balance and fairness among the provinces through the federal government's role of being the impartial central fiscal agency in making sure that fairness takes place, but psychologically the government is putting a damper on any attempt that we must make under these circumstances to raise ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

The phenomenon of cut and run as exemplified by this capping policy by this federal government is Thatcherism and Reaganism at its very worst.

Although there is a great gap between the Official Opposition, the Liberal Party, and the New Democratic Party, there has been a history of that party with this party, and indeed with some people known as red Tories when they shared a sense of what the common purpose of government is in good times and in bad.

On those rare occasions when we put aside our philosophical differences in the interests of meeting national emergencies, this instrument called Parliament, and whoever was the majority in government, was used successfully to help the people of this country overcome the crisis.

That is sadly lacking at this moment. What may have been the purpose of this particular government in putting the cap in originally some months ago is no longer possible to substantiate under today's circumstance. There is not a community in this country that is not suffering grievously from a lack of employment, a lack of a mixed economy and frankly a lack of leadership from the federal government in ensuring that some prime pumping money is available.

We are now beyond the point of exacerbating the differences that we must do as politicians between the political parties. The people of this country no longer want us to play those necessary roles as we must do in

differences of opinion and philosophy. What they want is some action and action now before this whole country is put at risk.

As we go through the debate on constitutional matters, people feel this country is not working. People are concerned that we are spinning our wheels here in Parliament while the country is going to Hades in a hand-basket. I think it is important to seriously reconsider the necessity of keeping the CAP, listen closely to members of this House about alternative programs and, regardless of their political ideology, give them sincere consideration. In the past I have spoken at length about using RRSP funds in a municipal bond concept to refinance the rebuilding of roads, sewers and sidewalks in this country. Money on this same program would have been available if the capping had not taken place. No one holds the monopoly on ideas, but the problem is the government holds the monopoly on freezing its mind in an openness to the ideas.

• (1110)

I do not wish to go over again the proposal I made about municipal bonds. *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper printed in detail an op-ed article that I wrote on this and I will be happy to distribute this proposal that was printed in *The Vancouver Sun*.

Today I would like to raise another proposal. The former Liberal administration under Pierre Elliott Trudeau raised as a possibility the co-operation of those provinces involved with the energy industry, which is now suffering so grievously. Under the National Energy Program there was an attempt to have a cohesive energy policy in this country, albeit there were vast differences of opinion and disagreement. The province of Alberta did not like the national energy policy. Certainly the province of British Columbia did not like parts of the national energy policy, but at least there was a discussion about the use of that valuable resource here in Canada and for offshore markets.

Because of the free trade agreement, some restrictions now exist about our being masters in our own house and shaping our own destiny in energy. I would like to raise one specific opportunity that exists for us to create