

President of the Treasury Board as another sacrifice on the altar of restraint by those who expected tax relief from this government but who are getting the opposite?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

MEASURES TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: No tie.

Mr. de Corneille: We are told by recent public opinion polls that the population is losing confidence in our democratic processes, partly, I suppose, because of apparent or at least perceived reversals in government policy on such election promises as a stimulative deficit, keeping our interest rates down, and moving our embassy in Israel.

In view of our concern about such loss of confidence, particularly as it might influence our young people, I would like to ask what specific measures the government has in mind to rationalize the management of its decision-making processes to the Canadian people and thus to restore confidence in democratic institutions.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in very simple terms, what we intend to do is make this Parliament one which much more accurately reflects the views of individual Canadians. We intend to do this by providing more room to more private members to have more influence on what is done, and to end the domination that has existed for far too long not only by ministers but also by party leaders in the House.

Second, we intend to proceed as quickly as we can with the freedom of information legislation which was introduced and has generally been responded to positively by other members of the House. We hope, as my colleague the minister sponsoring this legislation said at the time, that if there are members of this House who have better and more effective language to propose, they will propose it.

Third, we intend to take a very strong and thorough look at Crown corporations, which some in this House argue belong to the people—although the people do not believe that—to see if we can find ways in which we can substitute state-ownership, which is not personal, by citizen-ownership which can be personal. Those are some of the steps and reforms that I hope, given the interest of the hon. member in ensuring that institutions serve the interests of individuals, he will support us in.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

OWNERSHIP OF AND JURISDICTION OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I would like to know whether the recent resource-related threat of the Premier of Alberta has caused the Prime Minister to reconsider certain directions he is taking. I refer to the willingness of the Prime Minister to sell out the common heritage which all Canadians share in our offshore resources.

I also refer to the haste of the Prime Minister to create provincehood in the Yukon, which implies the sell-out of the common heritage which all Canadians share in our northern resources onshore and offshore. Does the Prime Minister not believe that the first steps toward giving away the oil and gas resources of the north, recently estimated by the Geological Survey of Canada to contain a minimum of \$375 billion worth of oil and \$540 billion worth of gas—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Watson:—are a question of importance to be considered by Parliament; and will he now reconsider his refusal to have a parliamentary committee review and consider the recent changes in the role of the commissioner in the Yukon which create, for all practical purposes, de facto provincehood in that territory?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has already used a rather long preamble, and followed his question with a subsequent suggestion. I think he has gone as far as he should be permitted.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer such questions as I could find. First, no, we do not intend to reverse our position on offshore resources. Second, no, we do not intend to reverse our determination to move the Yukon toward provincial status. Naturally, as I have indicated before, there will be recourse to a referendum and we will not move beyond the law as it now exists without the approval both of the people of the Yukon and of this Parliament. I am afraid that in the welter of it all, I lost the third, fourth or fifth questions.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REPORTED CUTBACKS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES ON RESERVES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, perhaps the Prime Minister can answer my question.

In light of the fact that the Sunday edition of the *Toronto Star* released details of a yet-to-be published report basically