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Is this country run by a democratic parliamentary system or is there a Liberal tyranny in this country in which a government can never be changed because they will have a majority in the Senate forever? When the Conservatives or someone else comes to power, they will not decide the important issues of the day. That is what the Leader of the Opposition is telling us. The Canadian people will be asked whether they agree with this. What system will we have in this country?

I know what the Canadian people will determine. Do the people of Canada agree that Senator Kirby, of the Machiavelli memorandum, should govern Canada until the year 2016? Was he elected by the people of Canada to govern? Was Senator Kenny elected to govern until the year 2018? Was Allan MacEachen elected to govern until the year 1996?

They were not elected to govern. They were turfed out, turned out, tired out. They were put up in the second house of sober second thought. Where is the sober second thought for the free trade agreement?

The man who came back in 1984 said that he would cleanse the Liberal Party and brush aside all the old gang, the bureaucrats and Trudeauocrats in the smoke-filled rooms. The same group are now governing Canada. The Trudeauocrats who the Leader of the Opposition was going to eliminate from public life in order to cleanse the Liberal Party are those to whom he is now appealing in his final abject surrender to the desire for power. He is now appealing to them for help.

We will see what the Canadian people want. I cannot wait to get this question into the hands of the Canadian people.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The Governor General of Canada does not rule Canada only because of the conventions of the Constitution. She has the legal power to dismiss the Government today and rule by fiat. The Queen in England has the same right. Our system is democratic only because of these conventions that have governed us. There have been the conventions since the early 1900s that the Senate does not prevent legislation from going through the Senate when it has been passed by the elected House of Commons of this country. Anything contrary to that is contrary to the democratic system. I would expect the New Democratic Party to agree with that.

The Leader of the Opposition has sunk to the level of calling on Senators to abandon their conventional roles under the Constitution in the pursuit of partisan advantage. Are Liberal Senators giving sober second thought? Are they representing regional interests when they agree to obey the directions of an opposition leader to block an initiative that the House of Commons has approved? Of course not. The arrogance of the Trudeauocrats knows no bounds. After being defeated at the polls, they will rule from the Senate. They can do so for at least another two decades. However, the responsibility is not theirs. It is the Leader of the Opposition who is responsible for falling in with their schemes and making the suggestion to them.

The Opposition has and continues to play on the fears of Canadians. Canadians are more confident and more capable of seeing through the distortions and the misrepresentations spun by the Opposition than the Opposition believes. Canadians are bigger than the scare tactics of the Opposition.

The Government was elected to provide leadership to the nation in the face of changing circumstances and to take advantage of the opportunities that arise. That is what this Government has done. It has provided the leadership in seeking the achievement of a free trade agreement with the United States when the opportunity arose. It arose because our Prime Minister had a good, valid and valuable relationship with the President of the United States. We seized that opportunity and we have this agreement. A group of people who do not want the national interest to interfere with their insatiable lust for power are doing everything they can to prevent that.

This Government has provided the leadership in seeking and achieving a free trade agreement with the United States. We are proud of our record. We are confident that when Canadians are called on to decide in an election, they will support the Government and the free trade agreement. This Government is the free trade agreement. There is no free trade agreement without this Government. In the organized political Parties, we are its only friend. We are the free trade agreement, and Canadians will not forget that.

Free trade can only be achieved with a majority Progressive Conservative Government. It cannot be achieved with a minority. It cannot be achieved any other way. We are the only way to a brighter tomorrow for Canadians. We are confident in Canada, confident in Canadians, confident in ourselves and confident in our leader. We are coming, and we are many millions strong.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, in view of the time, I wonder if I might call it one o'clock and resume debate this afternoon?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being 1. p.m., I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m. this day.

At 12.58 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.