

Supply

the winners out there today. There are lots of them and I applaud them. I tend to be a positive person but right now there are people out there crying for attention and for some leadership, the leadership that the member talks about. Part of our responsibility is not just to say things were never better and this is the greatest country in the world. It is the greatest country in the world and I will be the first to say that along side you.

At the same time, we cannot forget about those who are disadvantaged. Governance is not just for the advantaged, it is for those who are disadvantaged. That is the purpose of this debate today, to try and shake the government a little bit out of its singular focus on inflation. Let us give a little breathing room to the entrepreneurial spirit of this country so that it can start hiring people again. How can you, as a former entrepreneur, disagree with that?

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, the greatest leadership that we can give is a leadership of positive spirit; a leadership of confidence; a leadership of vision; a plan for the future; an undertaking that we will help Canada to realize its potential.

There are disadvantaged and we all ache for the disadvantaged. We realize that quick fixes are not the solution. Structurally, we have to prepare our nation for the future.

The first thing we have to do is to unify this nation. The hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood I know in his heart realizes that a federal election at this moment in the constitutional deliberations would be catastrophic. It would be the last thing in the world that we would want.

There will come a time for it. Perhaps there will come a time for it at the pinnacle of those constitutional deliberations. It is not for me to say. Now it would be disruptive not only of the constitutional deliberations but terribly disruptive of the economy. He knows that, and I am disappointed and discouraged to see him playing that little political game that is conveyed by this motion.

Mr. Al Johnson (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I appreciated very much my hon. colleague's very stirring speech and his comments.

I was disappointed that he did not mention the sudden change of direction that the Reform Party took over the weekend when it announced that it is now for the goods and services tax. It was calling for an election to throw us out when we brought that in. It is the same party that would recall their members of Parliament whenever they did anything difficult and tough in this House.

I wonder if he would comment on what he thinks of those actions and how they relate to this ridiculous request today.

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, the response of the Reform Party which I had not heard until now is very much like the response of the Liberal Party to the same types of issues.

For example, with respect to free trade, it was going to scrap it and now it is going to amend it. Then it is going to renegotiate it. With respect to the GST, it was opposed to it but now it is prepared to live with it.

The fact is it is easy to get on the coat-tails of a good plan, and that is what everybody is trying to do.

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking for 10 minutes. From now on members of my party will be splitting their time with another member.

I am very pleased to take part today in this debate which calls on the Prime Minister and the federal government to call an election immediately.

The motion reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the interests of Canadians would be best served by an immediate federal general election.

I certainly agree with that motion, and I will be voting for it.

This government has led our country into a very long and lingering recession. Its Prime Minister has not delivered on the many promises that he made in the last two elections. This government has lost all credibility with Canadians.

I think the best way to restore credibility to Parliament and to the Government of Canada is to call an election. Call an election and let the people decide who they believe would be the best to lead this country through these very difficult days.