

promised to the provinces that he would circumscribe this federal power.

He came back with another great victory. He said in cultural matters he would recognize the primacy of the provinces. A great victory! He gave the provinces something. What did he get from them?

● (1612)

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned that the fourth great victory was in terms of offshore mineral rights. What did he get? He promised the provinces that, regardless of the constitution, and regardless of what the courts said, he would recognize that the provinces have a proprietary interest over offshore mineral rights. A great big victory! No confrontation in Kingston. He just lost his shirt, that's all.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Even before I get into my speech it is to easy to see how this man would run federal-provincial relations. There are ten premiers and one federal prime minister. He would change it to eleven premiers. That is a fine, fine way to do it, but who would speak for Canada? Where would the strong federal government be?

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Letting his imagination run wild again he came up with several other facts. One had to do with federal Crown corporations. He does not like them. He does not like Petro-Canada. He does not like it when Air Canada makes a bid to take over Nordair. He denounces this as federal intrusion, arrogance, and everything else. What about the Alberta Energy Corporation? Does he object to that? What about when the Alberta government buys into Alberta Gas Trunk Line? Does he object to that? What about when the Alberta government takes over Pacific Western Airlines? Does he object to that? Crown corporations are not good if they are federal Crown corporations, but if they have to do with some strong premier, to whom he owes I do not know what obeisance, then they are okay. Nothing is wrong with that. Has the Leader of the Opposition objected to the existence in Canada of Petrofina, British Petroleum or Gaz Acquitains, or any Crown corporations belonging to France, Belgium, Britain or Saudi Arabia, for all I know? No, no objection to that, but if the Government of Canada has a Crown corporation in the energy field, that is terrible.

I wonder what kinds of principles the Leader of the Opposition has. Is he interested in the Government of Canada and in the welfare of its citizens, or is he just trying to destroy something the federal government has set up to serve its citizens? I do not know what principle guides him.

Again I must ask the Leader of the Opposition the question which was asked from this side of the House when he said that in the life of this government Canada had slipped from second place in terms of standard of living to seventh. I think that is what he said. We asked him to name the seven. I wonder if he would name them now, or should I name them for him? Who

### *The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

went ahead of us? The United States was there already, and I can give figures to show that in that period we have crept up on the United States very strongly. But who are the others? Kuwait? Bahrain? United Arab Emirates? Qatar?

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is why I was saying that the Leader of the Opposition was using his memory and not his intelligence because, if he used his intelligence, he would know that it does not describe the standard of living when you divide gross national product by the figure of population. Sure, you get a figure, and it will be higher in the United Arab Emirates than it will be in Canada, but that does not give the standard of living, except perhaps of the Emirs. They have a higher standard of living than we do, but in order to establish who ranks where, we have to look at what we can buy with that money in each particular country. I will give the Leader of the Opposition some figures on that subject in a moment, but I repeat that I am nonplussed by the series of absolute falsehoods and absolute misrepresentations put forward by the Leader of the Opposition on every subject he touched upon, whether it was the sovereignty of parliament, secrecy, cover-ups, scandals, figures, statistics or anything else. I think the best way to attempt to deal with the subject as a whole—

**Mr. Clark:** "Falsehoods," you said?

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is a falsehood to say that Canada has slipped to the seventh rank in terms of standard of living. I do not say that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled us. His speech writers probably deliberately misled him.

**Mr. Clark:** Do you stand by "falsehoods"?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The Leader of the Opposition wants to ask a question. If he wants to ask a question, let him.

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister, perhaps as a prelude to a question of privilege, is whether or not he stands by the word "falsehoods", saying that I have lied to the House of Commons, knowing full well—and I do not have all the lists available to me—that if we were to include the Emirates, of which he is so fond, Canada's standard would probably be thirteenth or fourteenth.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I asked the Leader of the Opposition to give the list. He did not have it. I supplied it for him. I said that it was a falsehood to draw from that list the conclusion that Canada does not have as high a standard of living as some of the others.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Cheap!

**Mr. Trudeau:** He has been led into a miscalculation, probably innocently, because he does not understand the statistics.

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