

Energy

income Canadians. That is what we condemn them for, the great betrayal.

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The man who on January 23, 1980, said, "Vote Liberal, and the price will stay down" is back in office now. He is back in his safe cocoon. He is now the Big Minister of Finance. He is a big man, he is going to fight inflation, he will be tough, he is going to be strong and he is going to be holding out against giving anybody any assistance. He is not going to help the poor, the lower income, anyone. No, he is big, tough Allan MacEachen now for the next three years until the election gets close. He is the big, tough Cape Bretoner battling inflation. Well, what did he say now that he is safe—he has another four years in office—on page 4 of his speech of May 6, 1981?

I have earlier identified energy as a source of two thirds of the rise in consumer inflation that we have experienced in the last five months, and I have argued that higher energy prices cannot be avoided.

Did that advertisement say higher energy prices cannot be avoided? No, this lying advertisement said, "Vote Liberal, and the price will stay down". But now we hear the truth from the gentleman when he is back in office. He says in the earlier part of his speech that the cost of living has gone up 13.9 per cent in the last five months. He then says that two thirds of that is due to higher energy prices. He neglects to say that those higher energy prices are all caused by increased federal taxation—by him, in other words. He caused that increase. And what do we see when we look at what the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said before the last election? The Prime Minister said this:

Our made-in-Canada oil price will result in a lower price to consumers than the one proposed for the next four years in the Clark budget.

That is falsehood number two. Then he said at Memorial University on January 31, 1980:

Our price will not be \$6 a barrel; it will be under \$4 per barrel.

A \$4 per barrel price of oil at the wellhead is a 12 cents to 16 cents increase at the gasoline pump each year. Well, we know what has happened, but before I get to that, the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) also said, and I quote now from *The Globe and Mail* of March 22:

—he expects to hold down gasoline-price increases at the pumps to about 16 cents a gallon annually for the next four years.

That was March 22, 1980. "We would not have increases in excess of 16 cents a gallon annually for the next four years": That is what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said. That is what this gentleman here said. The advertisement said: "Do you believe this man?" There is not a person in the country, except perhaps for the Liberal caucus, who believes this man. No, we do not believe that man. We do not believe a word that man says.

Mr. McKenzie: I will hold it up so everyone across the country can see it. Lalonde the liar.

Mr. Crosbie: What increases have we actually had? I will give my own city of St. John's, Newfoundland. I am comparing now March, 1980, to June 4, 1981. If we take heating oil,

we have heating oil, February, 1980, in St. John's, Newfoundland at 79 cents a gallon. We have heating oil today, June 4, at \$1.22 a gallon, 44 cents more, an increase of 55.7 per cent to the poor people of St. John's, Newfoundland, who use oil to fuel their heating requirements, a 55 per cent increase. This is the gentleman who said: "Vote Liberal, and we will hold the price down; they will not go up". Then we have the gasoline prices in St. John's Newfoundland: regular, \$1.28 a gallon but on June 4, \$1.89 a gallon, up 61 cents a gallon in the last year and a half, an increase of 47 per cent.

Then we have premium unleaded, January, 1980, \$1.39 a gallon. Today, \$2.03 a gallon, up 63 cents a gallon, a 45 per cent increase. And on and on it goes. These are the facts. This is betrayal. These facts cannot be gainsaid.

Mr. Taylor: He should be kicked out of the country.

Mr. Crosbie: By the way, we have the minister admitting this. He did not admit it today when he was giving his speech, but to *The Globe and Mail* on June 4 he admitted this. He said:

However, outside the Commons, he conceded—

This was the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

—that the current oil prices Canadians are paying are "about even" with those projected in that Conservative budget.

I do not care if they are even or more for the purposes of my argument. The minister admits they are even. In fact, they are more. The tragedy is that these prices are all in federal tax increases. We have no energy agreement with Alberta that we would have had a year and a half ago had we been left in office. We have no agreement with them because they are being screwed to the wall and all the producers are because the increases are going to the federal treasury, nothing to the oil producers, nothing to the people who explore and who develop and who refine. All to the federal government.

I have impartial evidence here, the *Winnipeg Free Press* from an editorial of April 25, which reads:

Unlike the Conservative tax, they fall equally on users of gasoline and of home-heating fuel and they do nothing, as the Conservative proposals would have, to help people on lower incomes cope with higher fuel costs.

The same with an article in *The Vancouver Sun*.

So even, if Trudeau's promise was merely to keep gasoline price hikes below the Tories' 18-cent mark each year, he has already broken his word in 1981.

And so on.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): So what is new?

Mr. Crosbie: "So what is new", as my hon. friend here says. The tragedy of this is that we have a complete betrayal of the Canadian people, and we are further away from an energy price agreement than we ever were. Who would negotiate with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, whom we saw a few days ago raise gasoline prices nine cents a gallon unnecessarily and blame it on Alberta's cutback in production, when actually consumption has dropped in Canada and he does not need to do that whatsoever? I would just as soon negotiate with a greased cobra as negotiate with the Minister of Energy,