

*Income Tax*

or the fact that he said the Prime Minister was "a dictator who is attempting to undermine our system of government", that "Mr. Trudeau must not be allowed to win his class war. Stopping him is the duty of every Conservative in Canada. It is the task of every Canadian who cares about the freedom and prosperity of this great land." I ask, what is that duty? Was it to get into the cabinet? No, not at that time: it was to get the government out. I hope we will not hear any more from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and when he comes and speaks in this House I hope he will keep himself to the business before the House and not cast any aspersions and insults about the colleagues he left behind when he crossed the House to go into the Prime Minister's cabinet.

There is so much to get one's teeth into, Mr. Speaker, that you just do not have the time. We have an hour and a half to speak in the Newfoundland Assembly, but here we have 40 minutes. Let me refer to the home insulation program which is directly relevant to this bill, because this bill makes these mingy, stingy, wingy, paltry, putrid grants taxable. What was said by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) when he announced this great new program, this great new bonanza, last June? The minister stated at a press conference on Monday of the week of June 29 that eight provinces concerned with the new home insulation program had been consulted about the program. That comes directly from the minister's press release, right from the minister's own lips. He said that the energy ministers had shown a great deal of enthusiasm for it. That is what the minister said the ministers of the eight provinces concerned had said.

The provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are Liberal provinces and have their own schemes which are much more generous. We understand that—it is political. They are the only two Liberal provinces in Canada. They have their own special schemes. Their grants are not taxable. They get greater grants and greater assistance. That is fine, and we understand they are being rewarded for voting Liberal provincially. But the other eight provinces are not Liberal, so they got a lesser program. However, the minister told the world that the energy ministers had shown a great deal of enthusiasm for it. I am not going to accuse the minister of lying—certainly not—of exaggerating, never, or of being too enthusiastic. I would not say anything like that. Then I looked at the papers and I saw that Premier Ed Schreyer described this new program as "restrictive and unequal". Have you ever heard such enthusiasm as "restrictive and unequal"? The press article goes on to state that Manitoba would enjoy "only a fraction of the benefits enjoyed by the two maritime provinces". He said that insulation requirements were greater on the prairies. That was his reaction. That was, certainly, frantic enthusiasm.

Then I looked further and saw that the deputy minister of energy for Ontario said they were not even consulted except for a telephone call. That minister certainly was not very enthusiastic. In fact, he was decidedly not enthusiastic. The deputy premier of Alberta said that Alberta was not going to accept such a program when the federal government interfered with provincial jurisdiction and inserted conditions that were

not acceptable to them. That was deputy premier Hugh Horner. That was enthusiasm. That was certainly accurate when the minister said that Alberta was enthusiastic. Of course, he was undaunted—but a few days later he put out a press release, on August 17. All these comments were made in between, and I will come to them. I have some ripe ones yet. On August 17 the minister put out another release in which he said:

Six of the eight provinces eligible for the Canadian home insulation program, and the territories, have responded favourably to the conditions outlined by energy minister Alastair Gillespie.

Now the enthusiasm of all eight—that great deal of enthusiasm—has now become muted and now it is only six, and they are responding favourably. He certainly could not say Alberta and Quebec responded favourably, because they would not go into the program at all. What do they think of it in Newfoundland? What was the great enthusiasm displayed by the minister there? He stated it is a slapdash effort designed to win the support of the provinces for the July 1 increase in the price of domestic oil. He was unable to give details of the scheme because this knowledge was limited to a telephone call from the minister, Mr. Gillespie. That is what he said. He protested the ad hoc approach. That is what he said and that was his enthusiastic approach.

What did the Premier of Newfoundland say? How did he display his fantastic, unconquerable enthusiasm for this great offer of the federal government? Premier Frank Moores said, in a release on July 5:

I am extremely upset over the discrimination against the citizens of this province exhibited by the federal government in offering us an ill-conceived version of the conservation program which was given to the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

How in the devil do you describe this as being enthusiasm? This is how accurate the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is in reporting to this House and putting out releases. The premier was "extremely upset" over a proposed federal program which was conceived in haste without any meaningful consultation with the provinces. He said:

The reason for this unseemly haste in announcing the program was to regain political points which may have been lost through the recent petroleum price increase.

I also strongly resent the use of federal financial power to interfere in the internal policies of the provinces.

That is absolute enthusiasm and acceptance of the program. Newfoundland is accepting the program, it not being in the financial position to follow Alberta and say "No, we will not have anything to do with your ridiculous, foolish program". They have gone into the program, and it is recommended by the premier that the program be withdrawn and that there be a federal-provincial conference to draw up a proper program.

In fact, I understand that the eight provinces described by their minister in June as showing a great deal of enthusiasm for it are coming to meet with the minister—if he has agreed to meet with them—to put before him another scheme they have described to replace this ill-conceived scheme that discriminates against the citizens of eight of the provinces of this country. The minister should come into this House and confess