

Summer Recess

because they cannot trust their leader, their party and themselves, it is no wonder they have lost trust in Canada and any government which would be ruling it.

Hon. members in the official opposition should start regaining trust in their own leader, their own party and themselves. Just because they have lost that trust, for God's sake they should not take it out on us. Why are they taking it out on us? They should put their own house in order. They should not bring their lack of trust out here, but that is what appears to be happening.

In any debate I think the debaters should make recommendations. I recommend that the official opposition change its attitude because that is important to Canadian unity and to the development of our country.

The official opposition appears to be obstructing any policy or bill which is good for the country. I do not know why it is doing this. Let me give just one example. In the Speech from the Throne of October 9, 1979, the then prime minister of Canada, the present Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), said, "My government is committed to making Canada self-sufficient in energy by 1990." Yet today the official opposition is doing everything it can so that the National Energy Program of the government does not meet its objective. Why? It is one of the same objectives of the previous government. The process of meeting that objective may differ, but surely there must be some co-operation in meeting this objective since both governments felt that was an objective which was good for Canada and all Canadians.

In debating Bill C-48 hon. members opposite were telling us all week to disband our energy policy. The Conservative party ran in 1980 on the platform of disbanding some of the energy policy. Hon. members opposite said they were running on the platform of disbanding Petro-Canada. The people spoke. The people told them what they wanted. They wanted Petro-Canada. They wanted this National Energy Program. However, somehow that did not sink in; the message did not get through. I hope the official opposition will change its attitude.

My concern is that this type of destructive attitude is creeping into the parliamentary committee process. I had the privilege of chairing the special parliamentary committee on a national trading corporation. This was one of the special parliamentary task forces represented by all parties, the Liberals, the Conservatives and members of the New Democratic Party. I think this is what added strength to the committee.

All year it was a pleasure to chair this committee because partisanship was put aside. We were given a problem to solve. We went out, tried to identify the problem and then tried to come up with a solution to that problem. As I say, it was a pleasure to chair such a committee because partisan politics were almost non-existent. We heard from 450 witnesses, had 270 meetings and travelled across Canada coast to coast, and Canadians told us that this was an excellent process because finally parliamentarians were listening to grassroots Canadians. It was their testimony which helped the committee come up with the recommendations it made.

The problem identified was that in Canada, as large as it is, we do not have a corporation or a consortium large enough to bid on huge capital projects funded by the World Bank or the Asian Bank. I am speaking of capital projects worth \$50 million and up. The largest companies in Canada admitted to the committee that they cannot afford to take the risks involved in exporting such huge capital projects.

● (2200)

All three parties agreed that this was a problem. Another problem which the committee identified was that some assistance had to be provided to small and medium-sized business in order for them to get into the export trade business. This was also agreed to by all three parties. The committee came up with many recommendations such as improving more financing for EDC, and providing an export training school. One major recommendation was that Canada needed a trading corporation. The witnesses told the committee that the private sector could not do this alone and that they did not want the government doing it. Thus, we had no alternative but to come forward with a recommendation that it should be a joint co-operative effort and that such a corporation should be formed, funded by the private sector and the government. The more the private sector funds the corporation, the less the government will have to fund it.

Two Conservative members agreeing with the problem did not agree with one major recommendation. As chairman of the committee I suggested to them that they should provide the committee with alternative solutions or suggestions and that we would try to work them into the report. We went to the final stages of the report, and the two Conservative members did not provide any alternative solutions. But they employed various delaying tactics such as the ones they used in the House. Their deliberate delaying tactics which hamper the work of Parliament concerned me because they were creeping into the work of the committee. I was sorry to see that happen. Alternative recommendations never came forth, until the report was tabled in the House. At that time these two Conservative members issued a press release to the media, not to the committee or the House, indicating their position and why they dissociated themselves from the report. How low can one stoop in the parliamentary process? It was a cheap shot. I hope hon. members of the official opposition will change their attitude and return on October 14 in a more co-operative spirit.

In closing, I remind hon. members and Canadians that the fact that Parliament rises for the summer does not mean that all members are going on holiday. Some of the minds of hon. members of the official opposition have already gone on holiday; this is why we are not receiving any constructive suggestions. Many of us will be working in our constituencies, many of us will be taking French or English immersion classes. I owe it to my constituents and to Canada as a whole to spend a portion of the time in my riding as well as here.

The hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) said this afternoon that the government was attempt-