

Election Promises

Mr. Clark: The CCF began as a party which was populist and a party that was principled. It became the NDP, controlled by the Canadian Labour Congress. And, Mr. Speaker, if there is a heaven for hypocrites, that will be the next stop for the members of Parliament sitting to the left of my party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1550)

Mr. Clark: It is not surprising that they should propose motions. Motions are what the New Democratic Party is all about. Always motions, never action. Indeed, it is interesting to look at what happens to their leaders when some kind of action is available. I think of the Hon. Hazen Argue, that Les Benjamin of a decade ago, the man who railed in this House against wheat sales to China and who railed against the Senate, and who is now sitting in that hot bed of socialism, the Senate of Canada.

I think of the Hon. Tommy Douglas sitting now on the board of directors of Husky Oil. The question we have to ask ourselves is, what is in the works for Ed? What haven of socialism awaits him? Will it be Husky Oil? Will it be the Senate of Canada? What corporate welfare bum awaits the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent)?

I want to return shortly to the very creative approach to principle of the New Democratic Party, but first let us look at the cost to Canada of this motion the last time it was introduced in this Parliament. Thanks to this motion and the NDP's sponsorship of it last December, Canadians were denied a budget which set clear economic directions for Canada and laid down a firm plan which would cut the federal deficit in half within four years.

Thanks to this motion and the NDP's sponsorship of it last December, we now have a government which refuses to bring in a budget and which has already added more than \$3 billion to the Canadian deficit. Thanks to this motion and the sponsorship of it by the NDP, the freedom of information legislation which my government introduced is being amended now to close the public of Canada out. Thanks to this motion and the NDP's sponsorship of it, the nuclear inquiry which was sought earlier this very day by the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) has been shoved aside and shrouded in secrecy so that the people will be shut out and only the bureaucrats will take part. Thanks to this motion and the NDP's support of it, Canada has no energy agreement and no energy policy.

An hon. Member: Would you have provided us with one?

Mr. Clark: I hear the voice of the new Hazen Argue booming from the background asking if we would have provided one. Of course we would have, and he knows it. We would have provided a program which would have set this country clearly and emphatically on the road to energy self-sufficiency within this decade. The government opposite says it cannot be done. We know it could be done by following the policies which were set forward in the budget and in the

proposals that the motion introduced by the New Democratic Party brought to a halt in this Parliament.

That proposal would have provided orderly and staged price increases to more realistic levels. It would have produced more than \$6 billion in new federal tax revenues from the large corporations for energy investment by Canadians in Canada. It would have funded new supply programs, new conservation policies and a major effort to switch Canadians from scarce oil to more plentiful natural gas and other energy forms. It would have guaranteed lower income Canadians tax credits to adjust to higher energy costs. The New Democratic Party voted against that. It would have given farmers, fishermen and public transit special energy rebates. The New Democratic Party voted against that. The NDP motion wiped all of that out.

And for what? Today we have no energy agreement. We have no energy policy. Instead, we have a government with a revenue-grabbing policy intent on imposing a new tax on gas exports to push up energy costs for consumers, particularly in the province of British Columbia and the province of Saskatchewan, provinces which the New Democratic Party should be standing here defending. Instead, by their motion last December they imposed new and special burdens upon the people of Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

What else have we? We have in this energy program put forward by the Liberal party as a result of the Liberal-NDP coalition proposals for new refinery taxes which could add 27 cents a gallon to gasoline prices and an equivalent amount to home heating oil costs.

Thanks to this NDP motion Canadians were denied mortgage interest and property tax credits to help meet the high cost of home ownership. Farmers were denied a chance to turn the proceeds from the sale of farms into retirement income free of capital gains taxes. The Atlantic provinces lost the benefits of special tax contracts for new investments and new incentives for Canadian fishing vessel construction. Instead, we now have a government bent on punishing the poor through the de-indexation of personal income taxes. The New Democratic Party says it is happy about that. The Leader of the New Democratic Party says he wants to abolish indexing. He supports the proposal to punish the poor in Canada which is being put forward by the Liberal party. Together this Liberal-NDP coalition wants, over the next five years, to raise taxes by 180 per cent for families with taxable incomes of \$10,000 and to bring back on to the tax rolls thousands of Canadians who are now too poor to pay any tax at all.

That is what this motion did for Canadians the first time around, and I am pleased that the New Democratic Party has agreed to recycle it this afternoon so that the people of Canada can be vividly reminded of just what the New Democratic Party has done for them lately.

There are a few other things Canadians should know about the New Democratic Party and its carefully cultivated image of consistency. Members of the New Democratic Party are as consistent as a rag in the wind, shifting with every breeze. On foreign policy, the hon. member for Oshawa said during the