

The Address—Mr. Dupuis

I have brought these figures to the attention of the house for one reason. If we are going to face a shortage of oil we had better recognize it now. We had better accept also that the necessary increase in exploration and development are going to cost a great deal of money. In fact, in terms of dollars it is estimated that it will require an additional \$50 million a year. What disturbs us is that while this money may be found it might not be found in Canada, and we would hope that it could be obtained in our own country. It is particularly important that the Canadian independent companies be able to participate in the development of this important resource.

It is for this reason that I ask the house and the government to give consideration at the earliest possible date to amending the present depletion allowance. This is a very technical problem and I do not intend to go into detail. I merely remind the government of the urgency of the situation, the demands that are going to be made upon the industry, the necessity for developing capital in Canada, and the fact that we are going to have to give Canadians the opportunity to compete on the same basis as foreign companies. Therefore I suggest to the government that if we are going to meet future demands, if Canadians are going to have the opportunity to compete in the future, the best way we can do this is by amending our own taxation statutes, thus making available more Canadian capital and providing more incentive for the independent Canadian companies so they can compete on the same basis as their counterparts in the United States in the development of our own petroleum resources.

I have covered a variety of subjects, and I close by reminding our friends opposite that when we face a new session of parliament following an election, perhaps those in the opposition might look back and recall how they got themselves in the position in which they are today. I have referred to the Leader of the Opposition, who has shown considerable lack of courage in dealing with almost every subject. On the question of the sale of wheat to communist China he has two policies. He has two policies on the flag. He has two policies on national defence, and the best contribution he can make in attempting to obtain votes is to out-socialise the socialists by adding another \$10 here or there to this or that pension, or by attempting to destroy the reputation of this country abroad. If he has any desire to obtain the position of prime minister of this country, I suggest to him that he had better take a lead from the present government and the present Prime Minister and recognize that forceful policies are those that are going to be accepted by

the Canadian public as a whole, and that only by giving some indication that he has the qualities for leadership will he ever be accepted in this country.

I suggest, too, that when he welcomes back Canada's first man in space, the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue), he will perhaps have completed his role of getting into bed with the socialists. I have noticed that many young Liberals throughout the country, including the group who met recently at Milford Bay, have suggested that the Liberals might join the New Democratic party. Of course as one professor, a former Liberal, has said many times, it is the inevitable end of the Liberal party to become absorbed eventually by the socialists of this country. Even I, Mr. Speaker, recognize the need for true Liberals to act as the opposition to any government, and I would not want to see them completely taken over by our socialist friends.

May I close as I began, by asking the Leader of the Opposition if he will not display a little more of that type of leadership which he gave at one time as secretary of state for external affairs, so that Canada will progress and will even exceed the expectations of those of us on this side. For him to sit back and take a purely negative role is not going to be helpful to anyone either inside or outside of Canada.

(Translation):

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like first of all to congratulate you most sincerely on your recent appointment to your present duties. Even though you have been occupying the chair for only a very short time, you have conducted our proceedings with dignity, fairness and efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, we are discussing at present the speech from the throne which was delivered at the opening of the fifth session of the twenty fourth parliament.

We have sat in this house for five sessions and will eventually have a general election.

It is our duty, as members of the opposition, to look carefully into the policies of the government which has ruled the country for the past five years.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who now holds the finance portfolio (Mr. Fleming) made a tour of Canada to promise balanced budgets and he promised that there would be no more budget surpluses in Canada.