

Excise Tax

and against eight provinces in Canada. We saw the National Energy Program being opposed not only by the political right in western Canada but also by the political left, the alliance of Premier Blakeney in Saskatchewan, the leader of a socialist government and the leader—

Mr. Smith: He is phony.

Mr. Collette: He is a closet Tory.

Mr. Nystrom: The hon. member may call Mr. Blakeney phony. I think part of the problem in western Canada is caused by calling western premiers phony. In every survey and in every conversation in the west you find people like Mr. Blakeney, Mr. Lougheed or Gordon Gibson, a member of the hon. member's own party in British Columbia, are united in their stand. They say a number of things must change, such as the National Energy Program and the way this government handles federal-provincial relations. If the government does not make these changes there will be a growth of the alienation in the west. I am very unhappy when I receive responses such as we have just heard from members opposite. I am very disappointed. If you look at the statistics reported in the polls which are taken in the west, you find 36 per cent of the people saying that if things do not change then perhaps they should consider independence.

Some hon Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Anguish: They sit back and laugh.

Mr. Nystrom: As my hon. friend says, the Liberals sit back and laugh. It is no damned wonder that they have only two members from western Canada; it is because of this kind of know-it-all arrogance which is being displayed today toward the west. It is a patronizing mentality. I say to members opposite that if they come out to our ridings and talk to people, they will understand what we are talking about when we say that westerners are very concerned.

An hon. Member: Where were you in the referendum?

Mr. Nystrom: The member from Quebec across the way is interjecting. A few months ago he said Liberalism was so popular in Quebec that Claude Ryan would sweep the province. As a result of the election in Quebec the only sweeping Mr. Ryan will be doing is the sweeping of his own office as he leaves the party leadership in the province of Quebec.

An hon. Member: Where were you in the referendum?

Mr. Nystrom: It seems to me that I have touched some very sensitive nerves over there. They do not give a damn about what is happening in western Canada. They have established a western Canada development fund of some \$4 billion, but there is no consultation with western Canada, with the four governments or the municipalities in the west. No committee of this House has been established to obtain some input as to how that money should be spent. There is no committee travelling across the country to find out what westerners want

to do with those funds. Again, it is a fund which will be administered here, from the centre, imposed on the west, regardless of what western Canadians feel. It is attitudes like that which inflame division in our country.

The former prime minister, Lester Pearson, stood for co-operative federalism. He stood for people working together, for people sharing ideas and planning together. I ask members opposite, what has happened to the Canadian tradition of consensus and compromise? What has happened to the tradition of listening to people? Surely to God that is democracy. Democracy is not a few bureaucrats who have no understanding of what happens in the west devising policies for our part of the country.

I see that you are signalling to me that my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear some of the members from central Canada stand and put on the record those words they are heckling me with. Then perhaps the people of western Canada would have a better understanding of what the Liberal party really stands for. The two members there now from western Canada will not be there in 1983 or 1984.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1700)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro)—National Security—Investigation of further spy rings identified by Taschereau royal commission; the hon. member for York North (Mr. Gamble)—The Constitution—Procedure for convening federal-provincial conferences; the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle)—North-South Relations—(a) Preparations and recommendations for summit meeting; (b) Implementation of parliamentary committee recommendations; (c) Query respecting Canadian support for United States policies.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, notices of motions (papers), private bills, public bills.