

Government Orders

• (1730)

Mr. Butland: Mr. Speaker, that was a meandering question which I suppose is somehow related to the environment. Since the government is polluting just about everything, there is some analogy there. I do not think our party needs to apologize to anyone, especially the people across the way.

They cite interest groups. We have no problem paying attention to interest groups. We have no problem at all. If somebody does not, then who makes up the interest groups? Who are in the interest groups? They are Canadian people. And what is the problem with that?

Where I thought it humorous was when the hon. member mentioned specific programs such as Community Futures which was initiated by my predecessor. I am sorry but that program does not work. The people in it are doing a great job, but their hands are tied, totally tied.

If an application is approved in my community, it will then go to Sudbury. If it is approved in Sudbury, it will then go to Toronto. If it is approved in Toronto, it will then go to Ottawa. If it is approved in Ottawa, it still may go to the minister's office and they say: "Oh, no, that is not a good application."

Do not tell me how wonderful these government programs are. The people do the best they can with the programs, but they are of no great benefit to northern Ontario. The money could be better spent.

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to participate in the debate this afternoon and I hope that the House will not be overly disturbed if I actually address the subject of the motion.

It is an extraordinary motion. It states:

That this House express its loss of confidence in the Prime Minister and call upon him to resign and immediately call an election.

What a preposterous comment.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): There are the appropriate gestures from the trained seals on the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker, and probably a similar quality of noise, but not much insight. It is a ridiculous comment.

Today is the second anniversary of the second electoral victory of our Prime Minister, the right hon. Brian Mulroney.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): The current Prime Minister has led the Government of Canada for approximately six years. I think the record of the Prime Minister speaks for itself, but I would like to have the pleasure of addressing it this afternoon because I think what we have seen is a great leader, not just of a government, but a great leader of a party and a great leader of a great nation.

I come from a part of the country that does not take its position in the House for granted because for many years people in my part of the country felt disenfranchised from what went on in Ottawa. For much of my adult life, the voice of British Columbia has been a voice crying in the wilderness. I seem to recall the Salmon Arm salute and other gestures of congeniality from governments of Canada and leaders of Canada toward my part of the country.

Since 1984, the voice of the west and the voice of British Columbia in particular has been heard more strongly in the Government of Canada than at any other time in my adult lifetime. In fact, in my whole life, with the exception of a vague memory I have of Mr. Diefenbaker's government back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, this is the only time I can remember truly feeling enfranchised in Ottawa on the government side of the House.

The party that forms the government is a party with truly national roots and the leader of this party is a leader who has been capable of creating a party with truly national roots. I would argue that that is in and of itself a sign of remarkable leadership.

When the Prime Minister of Canada sits at his cabinet table and looks at his ministers, he sees a profile of the country. That profile is only enhanced and enlarged when he sits in his national caucus, which he does faithfully every week, to listen to all his members, to listen to their concerns.