

fail to do so. That is the responsibility this government proposes to continue to back away from by having Parliament rise when, by staying, we could influence a settlement—one way or another, by negotiation or by other means—of the postal strike. We say we should not be moving away from our responsibility. We say we should spend another couple of days here in the heat. We are elected to take the heat. We should stay here for a couple of days further in the heat, deal with our responsibilities, do our duty and not run away from our responsibility as members of Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The President of the Privy Council spoke about the record of the government in this session. He said that for a session of Parliament this government had a record better than the average. That has to be seen in the light of the fact that this has been two sessions of Parliament, when we take into account the fact that we met before summer and then recessed for summer last year. What he is saying is that in two sessions of Parliament we have had a legislative output a little better than the average in one session of Parliament. I can agree with that kind of calculation.

However, it is not really for us today to compare lists of things which were done and things which were not done, although there is a very real concern in the country about a number of things which were not done or a number of things which were badly done. Some parliamentary sessions are merely unproductive. This session of Parliament has been one of the most divisive sessions of Parliament in the history of this nation and, tragically, two issues which could have united Canadians, our energy and our Constitution, have been used by this government to drive Canadians apart. Now, the constitutional bill which occupied most of the government's legislative agenda—he says it only took two months; I seem to hear them saying it took 54 years. That constitutional provision betrays the basic federal nature of this nation. The National Energy Program, which reflects the government's intellectual agenda, its taste for statism and its determination to have the state control more and more of life in Canada, is driving Canadian citizens, jobs and money out of our country.

● (1500)

We, Mr. Speaker, are one of the few nations in the world with a chance to become genuinely self-sufficient in energy. The news in Canada should be about new energy projects starting, however, because of this government, the news in Canada is about new energy projects shutting down. This week it was the \$12 billion Cold Lake project shutdown for at least two years, and probably much longer. That project's delay will have economic implications and will cost jobs right across this country. I hope members of Parliament from Ontario and Quebec understand that fully 35 per cent of that project's impact, which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources cancelled, would have been felt in those two provinces. So the provinces being bloodied by this wrong-headed, ideological, doctrinaire attempt to control in Ottawa an energy industry which will, faced with that kind of control, choose other places

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to build, and the people who pay for that, are the citizens of Ottawa Centre, Toronto, Montreal, Trois Rivières, indeed the citizens of every community right across this country.

Before the announcement of the Cold Lake shutdown, before that great economic leap backward as a result of federal Liberal policy, there had been a flood of 165 drilling rigs out of this country, taking expertise from western Canada, taking jobs and production from eastern Canada, and taking the possibility of energy self-sufficiency from all of Canada. There has been in the energy service industry a drop of between 20 and 30 per cent in employment as a result of the energy policy of this government. There has been a mammoth increase in imports which help foreign countries and hurt Canada. Instead of building up the independent Canadian energy industry, this government builds up its own multinationals. Instead of serving Canada, this Liberal government serves Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and OPEC. The Liberal energy policy is: OPEC first and Canada last.

Some hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Clark: In a curious way, "Canada last" was also the motive of the constitutional proposal. The Liberal government tried to hide behind the colonial connection to have Britain decide Canada's Constitution. We fought that colonial action and we won the right to have the courts of Canada decide the constitutional legal questions the Prime Minister and the Liberal party wanted to send away to Britain. Having won that right, we reserved for Canadians the right to decide the political question about what it is that is right and legitimate for a federal government to do. Because, sir, that Constitution is Canada's first; it is not Britain's constitution.

An hon. Member: Not too convincing.

[*Translation*]

A Quebecer told me that was not convincing. He should perhaps talk to his constituents, because they believe like I do that this is an issue for Canadians to decide and not for the British people, and if he thinks that it is up to Britain to determine the future of Canada, he is wrong.

[*English*]

As a consequence of some of these actions, Mr. Speaker, and I say it with sadness and almost with fear, we have a situation where in some parts of this country you can cut the anger with a knife. Whole regions are developing the view, with far too much evidence to support it, that their nation is being governed against their interests. The great majority of individual Canadians with bills to pay, families to raise and lives to lead, find their daily problems being ignored by a national government that just does not care about the things that concern individual Canadians across the country.

Some hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Clark: Millions of those Canadians are forced to cut back on their food purchases. Thousands must contemplate