

the balance of power. I wonder whether he was really serious when he made that statement, because when he spoke in the House of Commons on March 30 he was critical of my party and of the Liberal party on some of their proposals, and said that the Liberals and Conservatives were clearly one in their proposals. He followed it up by saying:

We reject that kind of approach to Canada's economy and Canadian economic independence.

How can he say, on one hand, that a bill is an example of the effect of his influence, and on the other reject that kind of approach to Canada's economy and Canadian economic independence? It leads one to wonder what the hon. member really does mean or what he really believes in. But we are becoming accustomed to the leader of the NDP reversing his position from one day to the next and contradicting remarks one day that he made the day before. He said in his comments that his respect for us as a party has decreased because of some of our policy statements.

Mr. Speaker, at least we have been consistent in promoting policies which we believe to be good for the country. We can hardly say that the hon. member for York South has been consistent. If we review the voting pattern of his party since January of this year, we find that on several occasions they voted in complete contradiction to what they said a short time before. We can go back to January, for example, when we put a motion before the House asking that the throne speech debate be set aside so that old age pensions legislation could be brought forward. The NDP, who had very sanctimoniously on many occasions promoted the idea of increasing old age pensions, voted against that motion, thus causing an unwarranted delay in increasing old age pensions from January to April 1.

• (2150)

We also had the spectacle of the NDP criticizing the government's economic policies. But when it came to the crunch when there was a vote of confidence in the government's economic policies, their vote was with the government, contrary to their remarks. We even had a motion about corporate welfare bums. They, of course, voted against that too. It was no longer important enough for them to discontinue their support of the government.

One day not too long ago they talked against the sale of Polymer. But when it came to a vote, they voted in favour of the sale of Polymer. How does the hon. member expect us or the people of Canada to increase our respect for him if he cannot put his vote where his mouth is? How can he expect us to believe anything he says if over and over he has shown that what he says is wrong one day, he says is right the next day? I do not want to suggest that the hon. member is dishonest by intent, but it certainly appears that his methods are tortuous, if not devious.

If we look for a moment at the debate on the old bill back in May, 1972, as recorded at page 2639 of *Hansard*, when speaking about the bill the leader of the NDP said it was "a policy which has very little meaning for Canada." In another place he said: "I believe this bill must be opposed." Finally he said: "We do not intend to support such a useless step as the minister has proposed." But

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today he and all his members have been speaking in favour of essentially the same measure.

**Mr. Gleave:** What is your policy?

**Mr. Yewchuk:** The hon. member wants to know about my policy.

**Mr. Gleave:** Why don't you tell us about your 60-day freeze?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. If the hon. member wants the floor, he can seek it later in the debate.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I see that the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave) has wakened up. I am very glad to see that. He wanted to know what our policy is. The first thing I would say about our policy is that at least we vote according to our principles and in accordance with what we say. I think that is a prime essential in politics. It is obvious to me that the conscience of hon. friends to my left is bothering them—if they have one—and it is obvious that the conscience of their leader is bothering him.

**Mr. Baldwin:** It isn't that; it's his figure.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** No doubt as a result of having given up his principles. I think this guilty conscience of his is reflected in the fact that he dedicates most of his speeches to attacking the Conservative party and in particular to attacking our leader. We can only conclude from this that he wishes he had the courage and the fortitude to stand up for what he believes in, the way the Conservative party has been doing during the past weeks.

For example, he was critical of our policy, stating that we want to make the wealthy wealthier and want to make the powerful more powerful at the expense of the ordinary Canadian worker and of the small Canadian businessman. But after a careful review of his speech I failed to find any evidence of what he would do for the Canadian worker, and in particular for the private Canadian, small businessman, except to conclude that he would probably abolish him.

The statement I am referring to is recorded at page 2789 of *Hansard* for March 30, where he is reported as saying that "the objectives of a corporation"—he does not differentiate between big and small—"whatever its ownership, are the same. The interest in profit and power is the same. The public interest takes second place whether the corporation is privately owned by Canadians, owned by Americans or owned by nationals of any other country." From this we can conclude that his position is that any corporation of business privately owned is not in the best interests of the Canadian public. It is an obvious promotion of the old doctrine in the Regina manifesto, suggesting that only government knows how to run your business; that no private individual has any humanity, social honour or any sense of loyalty to the country, but is strictly motivated by greed and the desire to abuse everybody.

It seems to me that is a rather distorted view of private enterprise, which in fact has shown all around the world that it can do more for countries and their development