

in Canada. It does not provide him with any means at all to protect himself against the erosion of the purchasing power of his savings as a result of the horrendous inflation we are experiencing under this government. It comes nowhere near being as effective as the indexing of bonds which I proposed and which, sir, will be implemented by a Progressive Conservative government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: And, of course, a Progressive Conservative government will also implement the elimination of the sales tax on all clothing, another new Grit policy which we have been advocating for quite some time. We will also proceed to take steps to remove the sales tax on building materials, in spite of the protest of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford) that this would only increase supply. Apparently there is something wrong, in his mind—

Mr. Drury: That is not what he said.

Mr. Stanfield: The Minister of State for Urban Affairs takes a very different view of things than the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance wants to increase production, but the Minister of State for Urban Affairs for over a year now has taken the position that an increase in production would only have inflationary results.

Mr. Drury: No, that is not what he said.

Mr. Stanfield: I heard him, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: You are using subterfuge.

Mr. Stanfield: I do not need subterfuge. I read some of the remarks of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs with a lot more attention than they deserve. I want to say that a Progressive Conservative government will ensure that every outstanding penny of export charge is collected, retroactively if need be. So I am quite confident the oil companies will not be getting any of that export tax, Mr. Speaker. I do not know how the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) are telling the oil companies that if a Liberal government were to be returned, the oil companies would be able to keep all that money; but that is exactly what they are saying.

Mr. Drury: They are not.

Mr. Stanfield: I know that is exactly what they are saying, and I know that that position will get the treatment it deserves from the Canadian people. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources know full well that the collection, the compensation, the intentions and other features of the oil administration bill can be dealt with. They know full well that the province of Alberta is pledged to hold to the agreement established at the conference. They know full well, also, that last fall and winter the oil companies held to a freeze for months with no legislation in existence to force them to do so. They know full well that the companies held export tax money aside for collection later on the basis that the government said it was going to collect it. They said so time and time again in this House. I say this government is playing a

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very dangerous game in saying it will be powerless to collect the export charge and that a future Liberal government would be equally powerless to collect it retroactively.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I repeat our position, that the oil export charge can be collected. I repeat our pledge, that if it is not collected by the present government it will be collected retroactively by an incoming Progressive Conservative government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1630)

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, the export oil tax will be collected, barring the remote prospect that Canadians do not want it collected and overwhelmingly support Liberal candidates who are running on the platform—

Mr. MacEachen: Foolish chatter.

Mr. Stanfield: —laid down by the Prime Minister last night that the charge cannot and will not be collected by the present or any future Liberal government.

Mr. Sharp: Why did you stop our legislation?

Mr. Stanfield: I know whereof I speak because I was the only one to stay awake throughout the Prime Minister's entire speech.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: These petulant gentlemen opposite like to call other people bigots, rednecks, nobodies.

Mr. Trudeau: Nonentities.

Mr. Stanfield: They like to say, "If you won't play it our way, you won't play it at all." These desperate, temporary occupants of the treasury benches have demanded their last ransom and have uttered their last threat. Any shred of credibility or integrity that remains has surely been consumed in the fire of their own disgusting scorched-earth policy—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: —as illustrated by their approach to the oil export charge.

Mr. Hees: The campaign is on.

Mr. Stanfield: Of course, we all know what the Prime Minister was up to yesterday afternoon and last evening. He was test-flying his campaign rhetoric. That is fine, although I am sure that a number of his own members wondered why he had to read through his whole campaign speech portfolio in the course of his evening's work. I was interested in the number of times that he quoted at length from newspapers which, I understand, he started to read after the last election campaign. I think perhaps he may