

media looks great. One might get the impression that everybody in Hamilton is a Liberal. Let me say that the majority of Hamiltonians do not vote Liberal. However, no matter where the Prime Minister goes, that is the impression he wants to create.

It seems that we have adopted the Hollywood approach to politics, where everything is orchestrated and pre-arranged to the point where there is very little sense to it at all. We must come clean with the people of this country. We must be fair and honest with them. The Prime Minister is not doing that. When he does appear to be honest with the people of this country, and when he does appear to come clean with them, it is on the national unity issue and not on the economic issues which plague us.

When we advocated an expansionary approach to the economy last autumn, the government said that that would just send inflation up the ladder again. What nonsense! When there is plant operating capacity of about 80 per cent, an injection of cash will not reach inflation proportions for at least two years. Why not take the initiative now? I ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien), who is not here tonight, no doubt because of other commitments, and the Prime Minister, who cannot be here tonight because of other commitments, to take a bold step forward instead of dilly-dallying back and forth and waiting for George to do it.

"George" happens to be the President of the United States. Our government is hoping that the benefits of the risks taken by the United States and the benefits of American guts will spin off into Canada. Then the Prime Minister will say that the credit is his, Americans are willing to gamble. They are not afraid of inflation. They want to put people back to work, and that is what the New Democratic Party of Canada wants to do today. We do not want those who are working to have to pay more taxes and higher unemployment insurance rates in order to keep people away from work. That is what the Liberal government has allowed to happen for the past two and one-half years. We just cannot afford any more unemployment, yet unemployment is going to get worse this winter and on to the spring.

I hope the Prime Minister has the courage to call a snap election. I would be delighted to go to the people of Brant in April, because I know that the makeup of this chamber would be radically changed. The Prime Minister says he will follow the polls. I must say that that really reflects a lack of courage. When the government brought in a bill to abolish capital punishment—and I was with the government on that issue—it ignored the wishes of anywhere from 70 per cent to 80 per cent of Canadians.

The Prime Minister says: "No, I am going to wait until the polls are favourable to me and the Liberal party before I call an election." I challenge the government opposite to call this election as soon as possible so that we can clean the cobwebs out and bring some vitality back to government. I do not want to be personal, but quite frankly when I look at the treasury benches day in and day out and note the difference between what happens when the Prime Minister is in his seat and what

happens when he is away, I know that we are dealing with a one-man government.

An hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. Blackburn: Canadians do not want one-man governments, so I challenge the Prime Minister to call an election. We will fight the government on economic issues, and I welcome hon. members opposite to sit on my side of the House for the next ten years.

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

TRANSPORT—DATE WHEN HARBOUR PATROL BOAT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR VANCOUVER

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1977, as recorded at page 1639 of *Hansard*, I asked the following question of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang):

... when will the minister take the initiative to provide a Canada-built harbour (patrol) vessel for the port of Vancouver, the largest and busiest harbour on the west coast of the North American continent?

● (2202)

The National Harbours Board in 1977 asked four Vancouver shipyards, all in need of work, to submit a design of and specifications for their concept of a good harbour patrol boat. The four companies, on their own time and at their own expense, went through the design and specifications bidding process with four separate designs. The tenders were opened on September 6, 1977. The high bid was \$226,600 and the low bid was \$191,400. The bids were close; the prices were right and were competitive.

The low bidder subsequently asked when he would be allowed to go ahead. He was told by the National Harbours Board and the Department of Transport that there was not enough money available to cover the bid. The four bidders were asked to quote again and reduce the horsepower of the vessels they had designed. What a stupid request, Mr. Speaker, for an organization in the government that is dealing with marine equipment all the time. As it happens, due to the escalation in value of the United States dollar and inflation attrition, it would not make any difference if the horsepower of the vessel was reduced.

We are now told by the Department of Transport and the National Harbours Board that they will go through the same futile exercise with the plastic boat industry. I caution them