

*Supply*

simply because Canada is recognized as a good country in which to invest. That is the absolute truth.

The motion itself is calling for an election because given time, given another year or so, when Canadians can see a real difference in their economy, they are going to be willing to put their support with us. I think that was indicated in the last Gallup poll. We do not want to take that too seriously at this point. However, where there is a 4 per cent increase in support for our party in the last statistics brought out by the Gallup people, that is an indication that some of our policies are starting to bear fruit. They can see light at the end of the tunnel and see that what we are doing makes sense.

We have a long way to go and we are not going to be there in another 60 days. That is the reason this motion is totally out of line.

The other thing that I want to remind the opposition of is the fact that constitutionally governments in this country are elected for five years. The opposition knows that. Aside from the fact that governments are elected for five years constitutionally, we have not even reached the fourth year of our mandate yet. Calling an election now would be totally irresponsible. What the opposition is predicating its hopes on is the fact that it will do the same thing it has always done when it has won elections. It has won elections by promising more, by simply getting the pen out and writing the cheque for whatever it had to win the vote at the end of the day. That is not going to work the next time.

I have a couple of questions that I want to ask. Would an election today suddenly remove the difficulties that face Canada? The answer to that is absolutely not, nothing would change. No matter who formed the government tomorrow, our party or one of those parties opposite, nothing would change. Canadian people are realistic. They know that we are not going to simply snap our fingers and the world is going to be bright and beautiful. That is not going to happen.

Is an election absolutely in the best interests of the opposition parties? The answer to that is pretty obvious. Absolutely, yes, it is in their best interest. If an election were called today it would be in their best interest because timing is on their side.

That is one of the prerogatives of the government in power and the Prime Minister. They can time the election. That is very important. We are willing to take the heat for the next year or year and a half, knowing full well the policies of this government at the end of the day are going to work.

Evidence of that was laid before the Canadian people last week. I am going to quote an article from *The Chronicle-Herald* of Halifax. The study to which it refers I mentioned quite often last week. I had the opportunity to visit a number of schools in my constituency. It was very interesting. One of the things that Canadian students and the Canadian population recognize is the fact that we are the best country in the world. This article to which I have alluded states how it is. The headline of the article reads: "Mad as heck and living in paradise". It is talking about the Canadian people. We are in a feisty mood. We are not in a real good mood and I guess we have reason not to be because it is not all good out there. But in comparison to the rest of the world we are doing really well. This article mentions the United Nations report which has identified Canada as the single best, the number one nation in the world in which to live.

• (1620 )

Last year I spent a good part of the year talking about Canada being number two, which I thought was okay, but this year I am going to have the task of talking and I guess bragging about Canada being the number one best nation in the world in which to live.

Last year, Japan beat Canada but this year we beat the Japanese and we beat every other single country in the world, including that big giant to the south of us, the United States, which came in number six.

We are doing pretty well in this country of ours and it is time that the opposition recognized that. I do not think it contributes anything to the debate when you get up on your hind legs in this House and rail and tilt and criticize. The Canadian people want more than just criticism levelled at the government of the day because the problems that we have to work through are monumental. I only have to mention one of them which might determine whether we do have a country at the end of this year, our constitutional problem.