

to be made more dialogical so that we can better represent and better serve our people. I hope that parliamentary reform will be at the top of the list of all parties in the fall and, of equal importance, that we give priority to bringing about more dialogue and less confrontation.

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to join in this adjournment debate—

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of my colleague who is speaking, may I ask his permission to put a question to the hon. member who has just finished speaking?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time of the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) has expired. The hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox-Addington (Mr. Vankoughnet) has been recognized.

Mr. Prud'homme: I will return to it later then, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Vankoughnet: The all too frequent motion of closure is used with abandon by the government whenever it attempts to get its own way at the expense of Parliament and the Canadian people. The serious state of our economy which the government is disregarding is hard to understand when this country has so much potential.

I understand this is the first time in the history of the Commonwealth that closure has been used on an adjournment debate. It is just another milestone for the present government as it goes on its misguided way. We saw this same government use closure on the constitutional issue in an effort to ram its proposals through, and now we see it rear its head once more.

The government could use its majority in constructive ways to address positively the many problems facing Canada and Canadians today. Instead, it uses its majority to usurp the traditional functioning of Parliament by again bringing in a closure motion at a time when there are serious issues with which to deal. We have in Canada serious problems facing home owners, businessmen and the everyday citizen which the present government seems to ignore, such as inflation, high interest rates, unemployment and an ill-conceived energy policy. We hear of such issues as the uranium cartel which the government does not seem too anxious to discuss in a Parliament which represents the people of Canada.

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I am sorry to say that many Canadians no longer look upon the Post Office with the same degree of admiration they once did. Rural mailmen, however, still deserve that past reputation for excellent service. These people do deserve an increase in the allowable limit for their contracts. When compared to the generous increases urban workers have received in the past, rural carriers deserve adequate compensation for a job well done. I hope that the government can address some of these problems and improve our mail service and ensure fewer interruptions in the future for this vital necessity.

Summer Recess

Our country is at a turning point in its history. The issues facing us are complex and interrelated. They are accompanied by a deep sense of urgency and concern. I believe that we must confront them head on, but we must also approach them cautiously.

The most serious issue facing us is our economy. Our economic situation should be our main priority. The production of goods and services in Canada must grow, not continue to decline. The present government continues to accumulate a deficit, which is snowballing out of control.

Many people predict prolonged, double digit inflation. Against this background, is it any wonder that businessmen and unemployed Canadians do not share the present government's one-sided concern towards the Constitution? This will not create more jobs or help those people fortunate enough to be employed cope with the ravages of runaway inflation. There is no question in my mind that the government has used the constitutional issue to divert attention from our dismal economic situation. Canada's economy has to get back on the rails, but this challenge seems to be met by the government railroading Canadians.

Serious problems must be met head on with serious solutions. Long-term problems require long-term plans and solutions, not self-serving hit and miss policies, as the present government sees fit to spread around.

The budget introduced last October is certainly no answer to Canada's serious economic problems. In fact, it does not even measure up to a serious attempt to deal head on, up front with problems faced by Canadians. Real problems demand real solutions, and the first step the government should take is to introduce a budget based on long-term financial planning. It must address the problem of the government debt and take concrete measures to bring this debt under control. It must deal with getting Canadians back to work and getting our industries working at capacity. It must wrestle inflation to the ground and keep it there. The budget must possess the intestinal fortitude to correct the problems facing Canadians today so that we can regain that high standard of living our ancestors worked so hard for us to enjoy.

This is the concept that Canada was built upon. Honesty, hard work, fairness; these are Canadian words reflecting some of the high standards that our heritage was built on and that our future will continue to be built on. We need policies that are honest and fair to work as a sound guiding force for all Canadians. We do not need a crafty, cagey load of doubletalk which is passed off as a budget but which in effect passes for no more than wind.

Canadians get more than a bad taste from this latest closure motion, uranium cartel, postal service, interest rates, National Energy Program, Constitution and much more. Canadians are facing difficult times. They need and deserve responsible and sincere leadership. They need a government which not only is in touch with all Canadians on the real issues facing Canadians, but one that will do something to correct what is wrong.