

Economic Relations with United States

mental political policy. That is exactly what the United States wants.

I am very pleased to learn that the line has now been drawn clearly and definitively. If this is to be a campaign issue for the Conservative party, then I am pleased that it has the guts to say that this is what it believes. It may be what it believes, but it is not what I believe. I refuse to maintain the status quo. It is now up to this government to put forward its position. I suggest to the government that it should put forward the case for economic independence. Economic independence, but not the nationalism of Mr. Walter Gordon, which is unacceptable to most Canadians. Economic independence means that we must create an economic policy. We must create confidence within the country to process our own resources, to deal in the business world as both importer and exporter. We should think more of man hours, when we talk of the balance of trade, than dollars. Indeed, we should look to countries in South America, Europe, China and Asia in which we can foster trade relations. But most of all, we must have leadership and the confidence that we can succeed.

I suggest to the government that this should be the position to take. It is not enough to say that we are going to blame the United States, because we cannot blame the United States for the present situation. On the other hand, it was not Canada that convinced the United States to get involved in a very expensive war in Viet Nam. I also do not see the point of going begging to the United States, saying that it should not do this to us, because if the United States does have to take some measures it must take universal measures. I think the way to become visible again to the United States is to stand on our own feet and be independent—not nationalistic, but independent.

As mentioned by some members opposite, the question then arises: Are we really able to be independent? Do we have a big enough population to be independent? I think we have. This rationalization that with only 22 million people we are not large enough as a nation does not stand up to scrutiny in modern times, and never did in ancient times for that matter. Many nations of this world have made a success of their policies with smaller populations than Canada, some of them with almost no resources. We have lots of resources. Look about you, Mr. Speaker. We have mountains of iron ore, nickel, all the minerals of the world. We have the population, the expertise, and now we have the confidence.

Mr. MacInnis: All we need is a government.

Mr. Otto: If indeed this is the position of the Conservative party, then I am pleased that it has put it forward now. This will compel the Prime Minister to consider just why he was elected. He was elected because there was a haunting conviction in this nation that he would instil confidence and bring about reform; that he and the Liberal government would lead Canada to this position of which I speak.

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I was simply rising to ask the House whether it would be agreeable to calling it six o'clock, since there is only one minute to go.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the House agree to call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock p.m. this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.