

Estevan; they were cheering the NDP candidate as he went through the streets of that city. I am told they are more interested even in the Conservative party than they are in the incumbent member from the riding of Assiniboia. I am sure the hon. member will be rising to participate in the debate because I know he is very concerned about his riding, about the strength of the other parties in his constituency, and the large turnout at the meetings of the other parties. The hon. member could have held his meetings in a telephone booth. That shows the enthusiasm he has been able to generate in that part of the country.

These are some of the concerns I have regarding the bill before us. I think we need a vision of this country where we can do things for ourselves and not always have to rely on other people. Why do we always have to be so wishy-washy and gutless when it comes to negotiating a deal? As other members of my party have said, there are many precedents we can look back to of negotiations with the U.S. where we have sold out to our American friends. That does not do us any good. That is one reason our dollar is down where it is today. There is no confidence in the economy. That is one reason we have in our country such a high rate of unemployment. We import more manufactured goods than any other industrialized country in the world, and one reason for this is that we have always had a program of selling our resources very cheaply to other parts of the world. We have no vision, no plan. When there is a worldwide recession, it is a country like Canada, which has no vision, no control over its own economy, that suffers first and the most. We have a branch plant economy, and in that type of situation it is the branch that dies, that falls off and withers. This is the type of economy that has been built by the Liberal party, by the government of this country which has been in power for far too long. The time has come when the government should be defeated and pulled down from their smug ivory towers, which I am sure they will occupy for only a few more weeks.

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I was not going to get involved in this debate—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh yeah?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** —but hearing this great silence from the loyal opposition on such an important bill I have decided to take part in the debate. Suddenly opposition members have become very silent and no longer consider their role to be that of examining the principles of the bill, elucidating its provisions for the benefit of the Canadian people and bringing forward concrete proposals.

**Mr. Hees:** We do not believe in thrashing old straws.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** The hon. member says they are old straws. These old straws keep repeating themselves far too often in our history. Bill C-25 tends to put into legislation a treaty that has been signed between the world's most powerful country and Canada, a relatively small country in terms of population. It has always been my belief, as I have observed the relationship between the giant and its northern neighbour, that the manda-

rins in Ottawa must have been brainwashed by the Department of External Affairs into believing that you cannot talk with the giant, that you must always back off; that you must never engage in tough negotiations with the giant because it will exert economic restraints on you and there will be economic repercussions. The treaty that was signed is the latest example of that kind of backing off.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being 6 p.m. I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m., at which time the House will proceed to the question of the declining dollar under Standing Order 26.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2002)

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

#### FINANCE

##### DECLINE IN VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. Leave has been granted to the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) to move the adjournment of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 26, for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the steady decline over the last fifteen months of the Canadian dollar which has now reached its lowest point since 1931, the announcement, outside the House, by the Minister of Finance that extensive borrowing is being arranged to halt a further slide, the high cost of maintaining the dollar and the inflationary pressures which will result from a further decrease in its value.

Accordingly, the motion is as follows: It is moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Broadbent:

That this House do now adjourn.

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, as is usually the case with debates of this kind, it is a debate which all of us wish would not be necessary because we all wish that the economic management of this country had not led us to the situation where our dollar is falling. Indeed, we wish there were in place in the government of Canada now a minister and a government prepared to be much more forthcoming, direct and straight with parliament and the people of the country regarding the policies they intend to follow in face of a dollar which has been falling consistently.