

Sale of Polymer

how many parts there are to a forked tongue, but there are certainly more than two.

We made clear to this parliament and to the people of Canada, and we will continue to stand by it, that as far as we are concerned, we want to make this parliament work. We want this House of Commons to produce worthwhile things such as those referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. We said we would support those things that were worthwhile and would oppose those with which we could not agree. That has been our position; it is our position and will continue to be our position. The loud mouthed, power hungry people to my right have no effect on any responsible member of this House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: We want this government to act quickly in a number of other fields. I cannot understand why they have been so slow in producing these measures. We want to see the government come forward without delay with its promised guaranteed income for those unable to work. We want the government to produce the increases in family allowances which they have promised. I appreciate that they are discussing these matters with the provinces, but I want them to produce these as soon as these discussions are completed. We want the promised amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act before the House. We want this House to discuss soon the government resolution on bilingualism so that this matter can once and for all be decided by this House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: The government is long overdue in producing its revised bill on competition. That has a lot to do with the increases in food prices and other things as well. Finally in this list, Mr. Speaker, we want the government to produce a bill to control election expenses. If at all possible, we want to have that before the next election. I do not mind interruptions, Mr. Speaker, but I think the behaviour of the Conservative members during this speech is evidence of a guilty conscience which this House ought to condemn.

• (1600)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: These silly, stupid adolescents—I wish they would shut up!

An hon. Member: Where was the speech?

Mr. Lewis: I repeat. The motion before the House, despite its words, has nothing to do with Polymer. Neither the mover of the motion nor the seconder, nor any member of the Conservative caucus believes for one moment that it has anything to do with Polymer or that it could change the position of Polymer one iota. This is a motion of no-confidence. It is a motion directed against supply. It is, therefore, a motion designed, if it passes, to bring down the government and bring parliament to an end at a quarter to ten. Mr. Speaker, only the most irresponsible people, hungry for office at the expense of the aged and disadvantaged of Canada—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Lewis.]

Mr. Nowlan: Take your jelly beans and go home!

Mr. Lewis:—only such people could present such a motion, a motion which is hypocritical, ill-conceived, ill-considered and ill-timed. I say again to hon. members on my right: stop wasting the time of the House. Stop wasting our time. We are not falling for this kind of irresponsible game. We simply know better, and we do not intend to fall for it. As far as we are concerned, as long as there are useful things for this parliament to do, we shall play our part in making this parliament work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, here we are again today faced with a non-confidence motion introduced on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). Here again, we have the official opposition trying to play politics. Instead of discussing a motion to force this government to act positively in a field of interest to the people of Canada, we are again playing games as in committees to lose the time of this House.

It is always the same old game of trying to find a way to irritate the party in power, to have fun, to lose our time. It will be noted again that the mover of that motion offers nothing positive. What did he suggest to the government to replace the sale of Polymer Corporation? Did he suggest anything positive? No. The idea is to complain, to find a reason which would prompt the New Democratic Party to vote against this government, thus hoping to hurl the whole country in an election which Canadians are not interested in having at this time, let alone discussing the Polymer Corporation.

I would like to ask the Progressive Conservative and the New Democrats why in July they did not accept the challenge and did not criticize the party in power? No, they preferred to wait until today to play politics.

I understand to a certain extent the desire to criticize the sale of the corporation which was sold for roughly \$72 million. Polymer was a Crown corporation but one notes contrary to suggestions from the New Democratic Party that directors of that corporation in 1971 were the great Canadian financiers and not the government or the Canadian people. Therefore, why should we criticize today? I appreciate that the New Democratic Party complains about the sale of the Polymer Corporation Limited because the vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was one of the directors of the corporation. They complain about that sale, but what do they offer as a solution? Absolutely nothing. What has the New Democratic Party offered or suggested as an alternative to that sale? Nothing. They criticize, or they simply defend themselves.

Although this motion is only a disguise for a non-confidence motion, I do regret that the government should have sold the Polymer Corporation Limited to the Canadian Development Corporation at a loss. When a corporation worth over \$250 million is sold for \$72 million, it is safe to say that someone is indeed trying to camouflage something. In last year's annual report of the Polymer