

community leaders in Toronto, said this: "Clark has been asking of us Liberals that we make a clear statement on gasoline pricing. I believe many Canadians have been asking that. Well, let me make it. Ours will be less than 14 cents a gallon."

In my own province, in Summerside, the present Prime Minister stated, on February 9, 1980, fewer than ten days before the date of the election: "I can tell you that Liberals will do things differently from the PCs. That 18-cent tax on gasoline which is needed to pay for that Tory election promise, we won't have that tax, it's out. It's gone."

Later a full page Liberal ad appeared. It appeared in the Charlottetown *Guardian* on Saturday, February 16, 1980, two days before the election, but it also appeared in every other newspaper right across the country. The Liberal ad said: "This is the time for Liberal programs, not more Clark Conservative promises." In particular, it said: "Liberals flatly reject the 18-cent a gallon increase in the excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuels. Under the Tory budget, consumers would have faced a 32-cent a gallon increase in the cost of a gallon of gasoline in 1980. Under a Liberal administration, the increase will be less than 14 cents. The Liberal price will be less than half of what the Conservatives plan to impose on Canadians."

The interesting thing here is not just that the Liberals proposed never to introduce an 18-cent a gallon gasoline excise tax, nor, that if they did do so, it would be less than 18 cents; but they also said that, whereas the total of all the energy price increases that the Crosbie budget proposed would be 32 cents, if the Liberals won the election, the total of all energy price increases would be less than 14 cents. We know what the truth is.

We know what has happened since the Liberals took office, and certainly since they defeated the Crosbie budget and the Clark government on December 13, 1979. In my riding in Charlottetown, in December 1979, the price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$1.26. This is just an example, but the same situation applies right across this great land. In June of 1981, the price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is now \$1.95—an increase of 69 cents.

In December of 1979, when the Liberals defeated the Crosbie budget and the Clark government, the price of a gallon of home heating oil was 74.2 cents in the city of Charlottetown. Today, in June, 1981, the price for the same product in Charlottetown is \$1.25, an increase of 50.8 cents.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Some promise!

**Mr. McMillan:** That is some promise! Indeed, it is some promise! There has been an increase of 69 cents in the price of gasoline, and 50.8 cents in the price of home heating oil. Where will it all stop? There is another increase scheduled for this coming July, next month, and there will probably be yet another increase in September. In each case the increase will be at least \$1 per barrel for oil at the wellhead, which together translates into approximately six cents a gallon more at the pump for gasoline. The important thing is that such increases have not just been on gasoline, though that is odious enough,

### *Energy*

but also on home heating oil. Those increases therefore affect the senior citizen trying to cope with the ever-escalating cost of heating a home, the fisherman trying to make a living in an industry already suffering difficulties—

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** The farm.

**Mr. McMillan:** Yes, it affects the farmer. It affects every single Canadian. The Crosbie increases, to the extent that they would have affected anyone, would have touched the person who has discretion in the use of his motor vehicle; and many Canadians would have qualified for an energy tax credit and other benefits to cushion the effects of those increases.

My speech has to be truncated tonight because of the hour; but I want to stress, as a maritimer, how appalled I am that this government, which depends on seats from central Canada, Quebec and Ontario, to keep itself in office, is trying to force upon the western provinces—at a time when they finally have a chance to pick their economies up by the bootstraps—an energy price scheme which will drive their economies into the ground. It will deny them the one opportunity they have to become to some extent economically self-sufficient, on an equal footing with other provinces.

I cannot understand for the life of me, why it is that the government insists on stubbornly sticking to those measures in the National Energy Program which will drive the oil and gas industries into the ground, which will discriminate wildly against the oil-producing provinces, which will do nothing to bring Canada closer to the goal of energy self-sufficiency. Yet it abandons the very few elements in the same National Energy Program which have anything positive to offer to the Canadian people. I am referring in particular to those provisions in the National Energy Program which were to benefit my own province of Prince Edward Island. On page 85 in the NEP, there is a most welcome proposal that reads: "In addition to expanded national renewables programs, extensions of the P.E.I. Conservation a Renewable Energy Agreement will be undertaken at a four-year cost of over \$9 million." But that one proposal, among very few others which would have benefited some parts of this country, is now going to be abandoned.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has announced to his counterpart in Prince Edward Island, the hon. Barry Clark, the minister of energy in P.E.I. that this renewable energy agreement promised on page 85 in the National Energy Program is to be abandoned. That agreement has been serving Prince Edward Island very well indeed; the province of Prince Edward Island has been relying heavily on it and was looking forward to its renewal. But the agreement is going to be scrapped, despite a firm commitment to the contrary. In its place will be put absolutely nothing to help Prince Edward Island, nor any other province in the Atlantic region, to develop a degree of self-reliance in energy.

In my concluding remarks, I want to stress that there is a firm difference between the Liberal party and the Progressive Conservative party in their respective approaches to energy. When the Clark government was in power, it came clean with the Canadian people about the energy goals that it had and the