

A final word of caution is this: the development of oil resources, particularly in the frontier areas, is an operation not free from risk. The government has enjoyed some success from its investment in Panarctic, but it should be understood as well that there will be some losses from exploration. Results cannot be expected overnight, but we expect that over the longer period of time a substantial contribution can be made both to Canadian incomes and security of energy supplies for Canada by the establishment of such a national petroleum corporation.

I express my appreciation to the House, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to complete my remarks after the vote.

● (1510)

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, just slightly more than a year has passed since the government presented its first throne speech of the twenty-ninth parliament of Canada. Being a new member at that time, I found the words of wisdom reassuring and positive and for a while had indeed thought that a minority government would truly be an effective one. At that time I listened with great interest, and even a bit of hidden enthusiasm, to the promises made but never delivered. It seems that the government probably borrowed the advertising gimmick so cleverly stated by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees) last year, "Promise her anything, but give her Arpege," and used poetic licence and changed it to, "Promise them everything, but give them inflation". Therefore, I have absolutely no reason to believe that any of the promises, though they are not nearly as far reaching, made in this week's throne speech by the same government will ever be initiated, let alone carried out.

As we all know, inflation is a very serious problem. As a matter of fact, it is the number one priority as far as this party is concerned. To have inflation rise at an astounding rate of more than 9 per cent in the last year proves that either the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his government do not consider inflation to be their top priority, or they are obviously unable to cope with the problem, or both. Inflation affects every Canadian from coast to coast. When the government continually fails in any manner to effectively attempt to control this cancer, and when this same government continues to govern in its all too obvious arrogant manner by not even considering valid suggestions made by the opposition, one gets the feeling of corruption and immediate change is necessary.

In the meantime, however, Canadians continue to see prices rise astronomically, meat becomes a luxury, housing almost put beyond reach of the ordinary person, while income taxes take a bigger and bigger slice of their pay. Government staff is increasing daily. Empire-building is rampant. Budgets are being prepared as if there is no end to the tax money available and every consumer in this country is being forced to pay for the short-sighted policies that have become all too commonplace in the Liberal government.

As I have pointed out, the inflation problem is of top priority within this party and as well is of grave concern to every citizen of this country. I could continue on this subject at length, but I would only be repeating what our leader so eloquently stated in this House yesterday, and

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the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) earlier this afternoon.

This government not only promises legislation which it seldom delivers, but even more, they are known for their grandiose announcements, creating as much fanfare as possible. There could be no better example than the most impressive ceremony on April 15, 1972, at which the Prime Minister and the President of the United States signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement here in Ottawa. It was designed to restore and protect water quality in the Great Lakes and the rivers which flow into them.

Let me point out that because of the fact my own riding of High Park-Humber Valley lies on the shores of Lake Ontario, and because the once clean Humber River flows majestically through it, bringing waste, filth, as well as poison into the garbage dump which was once beautiful Lake Ontario, I can state very emphatically that the agreement signed by the heads of these two great nations seems to have become a joke which falls into the same category as most of the other Liberal promises.

This agreement, among other things, was to have programs in place by 1975 designed to achieve its objectives. It was to have achieved completion by 1975, in all municipalities, of effective waste treatment facilities, including phosphorus removal, strengthening of regulations to control discharge of sewage, garbage and other waste. We are all aware this has not been the case, unfortunately, and the individual who knows this better than anyone else is the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Davis) who himself took part in that great flag-waving ceremony in the spring of 1972.

Somehow, due to inflationary problems of this country, pollution has taken a back seat in importance and it seems that all attempts for improvement have failed to materialize. I have tried on numerous occasions to bring this serious problem to the attention of this House on behalf of my constituents as well as millions of concerned Canadians who find it harder and harder to live by our waters. For example, on October 17, 1973, I asked the Minister of the Environment if adequate staffing and funding would immediately be provided for the proposed clean-up, as the IJC had admitted the lack of same, and if he was prepared to accelerate steps to prevent the continual discharge of water pollutants into the Great Lakes before it was too late. The minister's answer was typical; he said:

Yes, I am glad to give the hon. member that assurance.

That was more than four months ago, and to this date we have had no improvements whatsoever. Rather, we are witnessing a continual deterioration of the whole situation, not only on the American side but, unfortunately, here in Canada as well. Immediate steps must be taken in order to curb the deplorable infection of our Great Lakes and rivers by adequately staffing and funding organizations established for the proposed clean-up; and the government must, along with the United States, step up its originally scheduled program.

Over a year ago during the election campaign I, along with every other Conservative candidate, stressed the displeasure of the majority of Canadians at the very high and unacceptable unemployment insurance deficit. As recently as last week I sent out a questionnaire to my riding with