

**Senator Olson:** I heard Senator Flynn saying something about Social Credits.

**Senator Flynn:** I said, "The resurrection of the Social Credits!"

**Senator Roblin:** He still has his card, all right.

**Senator Olson:** That is interesting.

**Senator Argue:** One or the other—it does not make much difference.

**Senator Olson:** Senator Flynn, and also Senator Murray when he is here, seems to think that he can degrade me by accusing me of being a Social Creditor, as if that is something terrible.

**Senator Flynn:** No; those were the glorious days!

**Senator Olson:** I want to tell you something: the Social Credit government got into office in 1935 and stayed there for 36 years!

**Senator Flynn:** Yes; that is because of the oil finds.

**Senator Olson:** They did not find any oil until 12 years later, in case you do not know your Canadian history too well.

**Senator Flynn:** But prosperity came only 12 years later.

**Senator Olson:** I want you to understand also that the Social Credit Party in Alberta is not a dirty word. They delivered probably one of the most competent, intelligent—

**Senator Barootes:** Conservative governments!

**Senator Olson:**—small "c" conservative, if you want to call it that—governments. Whatever they did the people liked it.

**Senator Flynn:** That is right.

**Senator Olson:** They did that for 36 years. Only one other government in history was in power as long. Premier Bill Davis of the big blue machine in Ontario was in power for approximately 43 years. With that exception, the Social Credit government in Alberta held the confidence of the people longer than any other government in Canadian history.

**Senator Flynn:** I am not sure of that.

**Senator Olson:** It is true.

**Senator Flynn:** The Liberal Party in Quebec held office from 1897 to 1963.

**Senator Olson:** Nevertheless, it was a long time.

**Senator Flynn:** Not long to me.

**Senator Olson:** Senator Flynn is correct when he says that a lot of the support for the Reform Party now is reviving the interest of a lot of former Social Crediters. There is no doubt about that either. That is a great base upon which to build.

**Senator Argue:** Former Social Credit; currently Conservative.

**Senator Olson:** Yes, currently Conservative. But they are not staying with it.

**Senator Barootes:** For much different reasons, though.

**Senator Olson:** Whatever the reason.

**Senator Argue:** We are going from the frying pan straight into the fire!

**Senator Olson:** Nevertheless, 73 per cent of those people polled in Alberta say that Mulroney's Conservatives do not represent their views. There are a lot of questions asked about interest rates and how Mulroney and company are managing federal affairs. Approximately 73 per cent say that they do not agree with it.

When Jack Shields, the member from Athabasca, said that over half the Tories would be defeated he was understating the case.

**Senator Lucier:** By half!

**Senator Olson:** By a long way. When you know that what you are doing is wrecking the economy of a certain part of the country; when you realize that 73 per cent of the people out there say that you are doing something wrong, why don't you change course?

One of the most important things is the interest rate policy that is being followed by the Bank of Canada.

**Senator Flynn:** You are governing by polls. When the polls say a certain thing, you follow the polls.

**Senator Argue:** You know what Diefenbaker said about polls.

**Senator Flynn:** Yes.

**Senator Olson:** I know what he said about polls. If you do not want to hear what I have to say, I have made my point. Frankly, you should listen. Do you not think that you should listen to people who are in desperate economic straits?

**Senator Flynn:** Yes, indeed.

**Senator Olson:** I think so too. For example, you should listen to the fishermen. The Unemployment Insurance Bill, Bill C-21, is—

**Senator Flynn:** You should talk to the fish too!

**Senator Buckwold:** He is!

**Senator Olson:** Yes, I am. You mean the fish that are sitting across from me?

**Senator Buckwold:** Yes.

**Senator Olson:** You have an obligation not only to recognize the problem but also to do something about the desperate situation that exists, although not in the entire economic base on the Prairies. However, approximately one-third of the grain-growing areas are in this desperate situation because of the drought, prices and interest rates, which are absolutely ridiculous.

You may think that you will get over this before the next election comes along, but I will guarantee you that if you drive someone away from their family heritage, they will never get over it. The last time the Tories were in office during a depression was from 1930 to 1935. They were not elected for