

Summer Recess

country? It is because this party has based all its policies on one premise, that is individual rights and freedoms and free access of the riches of this country to every Canadian, not just one class of Canadian, not just one generation of Canadians, not just one kind of Canadian but to all Canadians. But they will never understand that, that is impossible.

Mr. Speaker, when a party leader or when members are just the messengers of provincial premiers, where is that political party going if it is not to total destruction and this is forthcoming. And I say to my Progressive Conservative colleagues: Wake up because tomorrow you will be divided into ten parties with ten premiers to guide you. And you will then be facing a great and strong Liberal Party with a strong leader who is now going to lead the seven most powerful nations of the world into discussions with a view to achieving the security of the riches of this world so that everyone on this earth could share in them. Whatever those foot draggers may think, whatever the members of the Permanently Constipated Party may think—

● (0050)

[English]

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, whatever the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) has been smoking, I think he should pass it around the House.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member, after reflection, would like to withdraw those remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to withdraw those remarks. This is the most enthusiasm I have seen in the Liberal party in a year and a half, and I congratulate the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: This has been an interesting session; a session when there has been tragedy in this country. The tragedy is that gas prices have risen from \$1.07 to \$1.60 when, in the last campaign, it was promised that they would be kept down. Interest rates have gone from 14 per cent to 20 per cent. Inflation has risen from 9.5 per cent to 12.8 per cent, which is the highest in modern times, and the dollar has fallen from 86 cents to 83 cents and below, as compared with the American dollar.

Probably the most positive thing that has happened in this session is that the Attorney General was awarded an honorary doctorate of law. That is about the most positive thing we can say about this entire session.

As a relatively new member of the House of Commons, I am very disappointed that the government keeps bringing in closure on important issues. It invoked closure on the Constitu-

tion. As the member for Brampton-Georgetown, I was unable to speak on that bill because of closure. Then it brought in closure on energy issues and now it has brought in closure because it wants to go on holidays. It is shameful, Mr. Speaker.

I listened to the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. McRae) and I listened to the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean and others telling me that they have to go back to their ridings to listen to the people. I do not know where they have been for the last year and a half but when they get back to their ridings, they are going to get an earful. I have been going back to my riding every weekend to listen to what the people have to say.

That party over there is in a lot of trouble. If I belonged to it, I would not go back to my riding; I would stay in Ottawa.

I get great enjoyment from some of the pontifications and lectures from the other side, Mr. Speaker. Today we heard about how we opposed everything. That is not true, Mr. Speaker. We have supported good legislation. I have seen many bills get three readings in this House in a matter of an hour because it was good legislation and we were able to support it.

We oppose those things that are wrong for this country and we amend those bills that we feel we can make better. That arrogant government opposite does not listen but rams things through. If things do not go its way, then it wants to close the House down.

Yesterday, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) announced that there was to be mediation in the postal strike. I am glad of that and all of us in this House are glad of that. We hope it works and that they reach a negotiated settlement. I see the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) is present tonight and I am sure he would like to see a negotiated settlement so that he may enjoy a few days' rest.

But the Minister of Labour said that they cannot operate in mediation when we are looking over their shoulders. Mr. Speaker, every time this government goes to mediation, does that mean we have to close the House? Can we not operate and discuss other important bills? Just the other day the government House leader was telling everyone that there are 25 important pieces of legislation to be passed. We are prepared to discuss those while the mediation talks go on, but the government wants to get away. Hon. members opposite want to go on holidays. They got their pay raise, as we all did, but we are willing to stay here and work for it while they want to go off for the summer.

I see the chairman of the Quebec caucus hollering and hooting over there. I never see him on his feet. He always speaks from the seat of his pants. He does not have enough nerve to stand up. He is sitting on his best part.

I heard the Liberals say today that they cannot get the work of the House done. I have attended many committees, Mr. Speaker, where Liberals did not show up and it was not possible to have a quorum and carry on the meetings. I know why. All those guys on the back bench were putting pressure