

Supply

Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) shudders no longer, because even if the government's bill went through, would the minister be able, by merely signing an affidavit, to walk away from opening up the processes of government in a courtroom to the public? Information is power. This government does not want to share power. The government does not advertise that, does it? It does not tell us that is the government's commitment, the commitment that it made in the Speech from the Throne; the same commitment that was made by the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) when he introduced Bill C-43—about which he nearly broke his arm patting himself on the back. The government does not advertise the fact that in the face of the slightest objection it is scattering. Its commitments mean nothing. But that would be interesting advertising. It would be truthful advertising. It would be advocacy advertising of quite an interesting kind if by chance some time the government should tell the truth.

Let us move on to some other triumphs of this government. I saw an ad in *The Globe and Mail*. I cannot show it to you, Mr. Speaker, because it is against the rules of the House.

Mr. McDermid: The hon. member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) did. Go ahead.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): This ad described the mining industry in Canada, our \$32 billion industry. It is a wonderful, colourful full page ad. It would cost a fortune to place this kind of ad. It is a picture of our hard-working miners. I will wager dollars to doughnuts that those hard-working miners in this former \$32 billion industry are now marching up and down in front of the Canada Manpower offices or in front of the unemployment insurance offices because there are now 25,000 Canadians out of work in the mining industry. To quote the hon. member for Willowdale, that is something to talk about, what this government has done for the people of Canada. Why not advertise that as well? The multiplier effect of that unemployment is likely to amount to 115,000 people in related industries. Let the government advertise its triumphs in the forest industry in New Brunswick and in British Columbia. Twenty-five per cent of the work force—

Mr. Rose: At least.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): At least, my friend says, and he is right, at least 25 per cent are unemployed in that industry. That industry shows very little prospect. There is a triumph and a truth for this government to talk about. Let the government talk, if it will, about the two-year delay in the Alaska gas pipeline project. That is another triumph of this government. Does anyone remember when President Reagan stood here in the House of Commons and said to the House that the pipeline would be completed and the Americans would stand behind it provided the private sector would do its part? That is what the President said. Do hon. members remember that? The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, with his ironclad guarantee that has grown rusty with time, stood up

and said, "Yes, we trust the resolution of the Congress of the United States. We trust the resolution of the Senate of the United States. We trust President Carter." I told the minister at that time that he had laid his political life on the line if he relied on that. He relied on that, and his political life is over, Mr. Speaker. There is no Canadian anywhere who would ever put any faith in the word of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. There is no Canadian anywhere, whether he or she is in western or eastern Canada or whether he or she is in the north, who would have faith in him. Let the government advertise that ironclad guarantee. That would be truthful with respect to our system. It would be refreshing.

What other programs do we have that could be touted and advertised on which this government has moved so quickly to fulfil its promises? You remember, Mr. Speaker, the promise to bring in Crown corporation legislation? Do you remember that? My friends down there remember it.

Mr. Rose: Hazily.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): It is hazy with time, but it is also hazy with unfulfilment. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) for all the time he has had—two years—has not brought in one piece of legislation. I wonder if the government ought not to tout that ad in the newspapers.

Mr. Beatty: What about double-tracking?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Double-tracking, yes, that is the salvation of the steel industry in Canada. As a result of not being able to build the steel for the Alaska gas pipeline, the government is going to double-track the CNR. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) is here. If necessary, he would promise that the government will triple-track the CNR. As well, I am sure, he will put an ad in the newspaper.

Mr. Rose: He will double-talk the CNR.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Yes, he will double-talk the CNR. Then we heard the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) when he came to office say that he was going to make Parliament live. He said he was going to reform this institution. He believed that the private Member of Parliament had some rights and it was overbalanced somewhere. Well, that lonely cowboy from Drummondville has had two years in the saddle. Where is the paper on parliamentary reform? It has gone the way of the dodo bird. It is like the Canada geese that I saw. It has been "geesed".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Finally, we were to have all these magnificent things, such as low gas prices. It was going to be a pleasure to drive up to the gas pump. Why? Because the Minister of Finance said so. "Vote for us" he said, "and the price of gasoline will stay down. Vote Liberal and the price will not go up."