

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give in Her Majesty's name the Royal Assent to the following bills:

Bill C-4, an act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act—Chapter 9

Bill C-6, an act to amend the National Parks Act—Chapter 11

Bill C-14, an act to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act, the Small Businesses Loans Act and the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act—Chapter 10

Bill C-27, Railway Relocation and Crossing Act—Chapter 12

Bill C-277, an act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act—Chapter 7

Bill C-281, an act respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act—Chapter 8

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government; the amendment of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, when Black Rod entered the chamber I was just about finishing off the NDP. The only thing I wanted to add was that they were suffering from the acute discomfort of responsibility; I think that is a milder and perhaps more gentle way of putting it.

[Translation]

And I would like to add that this is nothing to disgrace the Leader of the New Democratic Party. He is not a government man, he is an opposition man, a theorizer.

I wish only to express my sympathy for the embarrassment he must feel when his party comes into power in some provinces and I can give only two examples, so as not to delay our proceedings, to show what happens when the New Democratic Party comes into power.

You remember that in this House the New Democratic Party was scandalized during the last Parliament because

The Budget—Mr. Trudeau

we had raised the salaries of members. One of the first things done by NDP government in British Columbia when coming into power was to raise the salaries of members, more especially that of the Prime Minister.

Here is the second example, Mr. Speaker; it is very revealing about theoreticians who have become practitioners; while the minority NDP party was protesting here in this House against higher oil and gas prices, their brothers in Saskatchewan and British Columbia lost no time in increasing gas and oil prices.

Mr. Speaker, I wish now to turn to the other opposition party. While the NDP's position changed considerably in the last two weeks, as I said before, I must be fair to the Leader of the Opposition and admit that he never changed. Ever since we have known him in this House he has had only one goal and this is his job, that is to defeat the government. It is his task to do so and as fast as possible.

You will recall that following the last elections, when he came back to Ottawa with his somewhat too enthusiastic troops, the poor man had his picture taken—and I know he was rather the victim than the instigator of this in view of the situation—his picture was taken while he was receiving the keys of 24 Sussex Drive.

Mr. Speaker, I should tell you that I did not hasten to change the locks. As the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) would say if he was here: It was not true about the keys, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is a very simple reason for this change of attitude; at the beginning, power was taken without any elections. It was at that time—

An hon. Member: —the only way—

Mr. Trudeau: —yes, the only way. Today, the constitution does not seem to allow it. Therefore they ask for elections and immediately. This is the reason, it is very simple. I will quote only two members of his party, as reported in the *Toronto Star* of April 30, 1974. Here is what the hon. member for Palliser (Mr. Schumacher) said:

● (2010)

[English]

If there's no election this summer, you might see something develop along the lines of a new party.

Another Conservative, who was described as a Conservative from southern Alberta, is quoted as saying he is unhappy with his party. He says:

But I can't say anything about that now . . . I wouldn't want to be a part of any movement to be caught in the middle of an election. By the middle of May I should know better.

Mr. Speaker, he has seven days to go. By tomorrow night he may know better—we will all know better—why the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) is in so much of a hurry to call an election.

Mr. Stanfield: It will save the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, for once we are in agreement, the Leader of the Opposition and I. We think an election will indeed save the country; it will save it from