

The Constitution

Mr. Taylor: With regard to half truths, the Prime Minister goes to the press and says this package he is presenting is the result of what the people of Quebec wanted when they voted against national sovereignty. That is a complete fabrication. Even Claude Ryan, the Liberal leader of Quebec, will not go along with that. He will take this government to court if the government of Quebec will not. Hon. members opposite stand up and ask the people to believe them. We cannot believe a thing the Prime Minister of Canada says.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: There are some hon. members opposite, including the hon. member from Manitoba, who tried to fool this House today that the people of western Canada are not thinking seriously about these things. I wonder why 600 people showed up at a separation meeting in Red Deer the other night. I wonder why the people of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and B.C. are organizing separation movements. One of them claims it has 13,000 members. They are completely fed up with what the Liberals are giving them in western Canada.

I want to give one example. Bob Giles was the editor and publisher of *The Watchman*, an Argenteuil paper, in the Argenteuil-Two Mountains constituency. He was the publisher and editor of the family business there that was started more than 75 years ago. Mr. Giles and his paper supported the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) after his first nomination as a candidate to contest that riding right up until Mr. Giles left the province of Quebec. He was writing editorials against separation. He went out to Alberta in 1977 and became the publisher and editor of the *Strathmore Standard* in the Alberta Bow River constituency. Since that time he made a study of the alienation he saw all around him and the reasons people were becoming disgruntled with the federal government. He found out what it was all about. He became disenchanted with the present Prime Minister and the Liberal government. The other day he even purchased a cap to show that he was no longer going to support the Liberal government. He wants fairness in this country, and he is wearing a cap like the one I have in my hand now. On it it says: "Western Republic of Canada". He is not breaking away from Canada. We would not let the Prime Minister drive us out of this country. But Bob Giles is wearing this cap. I am not wearing it yet, but if we have much more of this totalitarianism, I will be the next one to put it on.

People in western Canada do not want—nor do they ask for—any special deal or special consideration. Their long-festering anger has been aggravated by the refusal of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) to give Alberta a reasonable price for its oil and gas and by the Prime Minister and Stuart Smith endeavouring to brainwash central Canadians by telling them that Alberta gas and oil belong to all Canadians, which is a complete fabrication and a denial of the BNA Act.

● (2300)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised the people of western Canada—and I was there and heard him at the western resources conference—that he would correct the unfairness about freight rates. Freight rates are at their apex in this country. We pay the highest rates going west and we pay the highest rates going east. The Prime Minister made a promise to the people of western Canada when he said that there was no reason why one quarter of the population should not have a fair deal. He promised them a fair deal in freight rates but he has done nothing about it. By dilly-dallying and leaving the grain transportation in the mess it was in 1979, he is ruining the farmers. He ruined our oil industry by establishing an export price for oil a few years ago. He has set back the industry four years. No wonder we are still paying millions of dollars for imported oil. Most of it is owing to the very actions of the present Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: Bob Giles, once a strong Liberal, now has taken a stand the other way. He wants fairness in this country. The only way he can get it, he thinks, is to establish a republic in western Canada. He asked me to give this cap to the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) with his compliments in the hope that the minister will take it to the next cabinet meeting and show the Prime Minister what he is doing to Canada. He is breaking up Canada, he is dividing this country.

Mr. Speaker, I will not simply stand and say, "yes, yes" the way the Liberal members are doing, because I see the country being broken up.

An hon. Member: That is right!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: In 1968, the Prime Minister promised the people a just society, and he gave them the War Measures Act. In 1972, he promised them a new society, and he gave them record inflation and unemployment. In 1974, he promised no wage and price controls. He ridiculed the then leader of the opposition, the Hon. Robert Stanfield, and then he imposed wage and price controls, though not as it would have been done had Mr. Stanfield been elected. In 1980, he promised no increase in gas prices, and he gave them an increase. Everybody who goes to the pump knows that.

What about our natural resources? All we are asking for is a fair deal. We went through the depression years. I went hungry and I saw my mother go hungry in those years. I made up my mind, growing up with all that wheat in the fields and all that abundance, that there is no reason why men and women, boys and girls should be hungry in the midst of plenty. I made up my mind that I would do everything I could to make sure that no other Canadian would have to suffer that way. Then we found oil—not with the help of people in eastern Canada but with the help of Americans. Now things are looking a little better. Because we are doing well, we get