

Mr. Trudeau: This is not a new tendency in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Six years after confederation the great parliamentarian and Liberal, Edward Blake, had this to say:

The future of Canada, I believe, depends very largely upon the cultivation of a national spirit . . . we must find some common ground on which to unite, some common aspiration to be shared, and I think it can be found alone in the cultivation of that national spirit to which I have referred.

What is this government doing for that national spirit when it gives up to the provinces very important areas of federal jurisdiction?

May I also quote Mr. Henri Bourassa, a Canadian nationalist well known on all sides of this House and who sat in this House with great distinction for 40 years, I believe. Seeing the spirit which developed at the time and which is very similar to the spirit developing now in Canada—and which we fought in this election campaign, Mr. Speaker—Mr. Bourassa warned as follows:

—there is Ontario patriotism, Quebec patriotism, or western patriotism, each based on the hope that it may swallow up the others, but there is no Canadian patriotism, and we can have no Canadian nation when we have no Canadian patriotism.

That is what we are asking of this government, Mr. Speaker—to create a spirit of Canada and to bring in policies which are not an abdication of its responsibilities. I think the Prime Minister is influenced by Mr. Jim Gillies whom we knew when he sat in this House. He was reported in *The Globe and Mail* of August 27 as having said that a traditional Conservative believes that no government is the best government in the most narrow of all senses.

I believe that is what we have in this government, Mr. Speaker. This is what the neo-conservatism is: it is a feeling that this government cannot govern. It think it is well justified in having doubts about itself, Mr. Speaker. It is a feeling that this government cannot govern so let us give it up to the provinces and they can govern. They can have the Crown corporations. They can have their corporations on energy. They can organize their economy and use the tool of the Crown corporation in order to serve the people of their province. This government believes that no government is the best government. It is really withering away, and withering away the spirit of Canada in the process. That is what we on this side will combat to the best of our abilities.

● (1550)

In the question period we heard the government—the Prime Minister, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Finance explain lamely that an energy pricing agreement would soon be reached. Perhaps not this week or next, perhaps not this month or next, but hopefully next year, Mr. Speaker, because then the agreement put together by our government when it was in office will expire. Instead, what have we heard? We have heard hints of possible acceleration in the rate of price increases. As members on our side have pointed out, acceleration would lead almost inevitably to double digit inflation and an economic slowdown in the consuming provinces.

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

I need not remind this House that the problem of guaranteeing a sure supply of energy to Canadians at the price they can afford is the most urgent and critical economic issue facing this Parliament. Could anyone fail to be alarmed when they compare the growing energy crisis facing all countries and the fumbling backtracking and confusion that has accompanied the government's lack of energy policies since the election? Could anyone fail to be alarmed when we know that each fumbled energy opportunity exposes Canada to greater inflation? The government has shown no sign of being able to cope with this problem. Indeed, I would say their actions over the last four months have given Canadians a great deal to worry about. I speak of their jeopardizing our agreements with foreign suppliers, foolish antics over domestic pricing, a secret giveaway of federal powers to deal with offshore resources, and appalling fumbling over Petro-Canada.

In the last two years of our government, Mr. Speaker, we had managed to make arrangements with Venezuela and Mexico to ensure an interim supply of oil to eastern Canada. Those arrangements would lead to such countries using the proceeds of their sales to purchase Canadian exports worth billions of dollars. Now, what about those arrangements? Are they in jeopardy? Will they come through? Will the government be able to pull off what we had negotiated?

On the pricing issue, it was only when they came to office that those opposite saw federal-provincial relations were more than Sunday school picnics. Provincial premiers do not disagree with Ottawa or among themselves because of mere personality clashes. They disagree because their interests are different. The division over energy among those three great Tories, Mr. Lougheed, Mr. Davis and the great leader opposite, are deeper today than they were ten years ago. If the Prime Minister hopes to be a leader he will need more than secret meetings in Toronto, Calgary, and Montreal. He will need to take the tough actions which are in the interest of all Canadians, actions that will not be universally popular but which will ensure new sources of energy, energy at a fair price which does not cripple families who are worried over what price they will pay for their furnace oil this winter, and, in some regions, whether there will be enough oil for every family. The Prime Minister must consider those who drive to work and their worry whether gasoline will go up ten, twenty or thirty cents a gallon this winter.

The long summer of Tory platitudes from mountain retreats is over; the realities of fall and winter are upon us. Canadians want to know the score on the energy question. Where does the government stand? Our position was clear and it is clear. We subsidized the consumer. We allowed prices to increase only enough to keep new production coming on-stream. We were not loved by every premier but we were responsive to the needs of every Canadian. I do not mind the premiers loving the Prime Minister to death. I am worried if they love Canada to death, and I am worried that this government will not be able to reach tough agreements.

Our position on offshore jurisdiction is equally clear and responsive. I have never considered the offshore question a