

any nation in the world. We have a national energy policy that is realistic and non-inflationary. The Minister of State for Small Businesses (Mr. Lapointe) indicated that he is studying changes to the Small Businesses Loans Act to see if we could expand this legislation to cover costs of inventory for small business people. He is also studying the whole program of the small business sector, the study we refer to as the small business review, and we are cognizant of their current problems. We have amended the Bank Act to provide access to a broader range of financial resources, again bearing in mind the need of the business community.

It is in this context that I suggest to this House we have retained our place among the leaders of the industrialized nations of the world. If our policies are so wrong, why were there only 88 members of the opposition in the House on November 6 when our budget was passed? Where was the hon. member for St. John's West, and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark)? Why were they not in this House to vote against this budget if it was so wrong—

An hon. Member: They were in Kitchener.

An hon. Member: Where are all your ministers?

Mr. Ferguson:—as they tried to lead us to believe tonight? And now in this emergency debate, where are they? They spoke earlier, and then went home to bed.

Mr. Rae: Where is MacEachen?

Mr. Kempling: Where is MacEachen right now?

Mr. Ferguson: I believe that if they are serious in their statements of the last few weeks, the people of Canada deserve to know where they were and why they were not here to vote on this budget which we brought in on October 28, which has shown the way for energy stability and security in Canada in the decade ahead.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, about the only thing that budget is going to do is destroy the country. The minister was criticizing our leader. At least our leader was here tonight. I do not see a member of their front rows and there are only six in the whole caboodle over there. Then he has the gall to stand up and say that our leader was not here. Our leader was here.

Mr. Ferguson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. *Hansard* for November 6 indicates who was in the House for the vote. Their leader is not listed, and neither is the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie).

● (0230)

Mr. Taylor: Let the television cameras parade along the front line opposite. Not a man there, or a woman! Put that in your pipe and smoke it! The wealthy Liberals can rationalize all they like, but it does not help the poor people of this country to pay their heating bills. They can talk about changing our priorities. All this means to many senior citizens is that

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they have to change from catfood to dogfood. How are they going to change their priorities? Ask the Primer Minister (Mr. Trudeau). It is okay for him with his million dollars to change his priorities. Let us talk to the common people who built this country and today are being told to change their priorities. They fought for this country as well. The only priorities left to change for many is to cut down more on their food.

Members opposite clap their hands when the Prime Minister talks about changing priorities. I wonder if they know what that means. The Liberal party is becoming a party of half truths, and that is giving them the benefit of the doubt. They are continually telling the people of this country things that are not right. I want to give one or two examples to illustrate this.

Every day they say that Alberta does not want to enter into an agreement. It is the Liberals who do not want an agreement. Alberta is ready and willing. If the Liberals do not know, I will tell them the agreement that was offered to the Prime Minister. He thought it was pretty good. After taking a night to think about it, he said he did not want an agreement. Yet they say Alberta will not agree.

If I were selling my farm and I said I would give you a price for the house and we can make a deal later on the land, would you sign the deal? Of course not. That is what the energy minister has been doing with the Alberta government, negotiating piece by piece. They know the Alberta government cannot accept one part without knowing what the other part will be.

The only time the Liberal government and the minister of energy offered a full package of negotiations was last June. He made sure it was so low that no government could accept it. Since then, there has not been a package offer. It has been done piece by piece. They tell the people of Canada they offered world prices for Fort McMurray oil, and Alberta would not accept it. That was a half truth. The federal government did not say what it would give for conventional oil. It would not say anything else.

If hon. members who back this government will support that, they will support anything. It is absolute nonsense to say the Alberta government should accept that type of offer piece by piece. Finally, Premier Lougheed of Alberta came up with a full package offer which he placed before the Prime Minister on July 25. I want to state some of what was in that offer to see whether members opposite, as reasonable Canadians, could refuse to accept it.

First, they did not start talking 75 per cent of the world price. Alberta did not even talk world price. It started with 65 per cent of the North American price, and that was to go on until 1984 when it would rise to 75 per cent of the North American price. That is what they offered, and the Prime Minister would not accept it. He is prepared to pay \$38 for Arabian or Mexican oil, but will not pay Albertans half that amount. He turned it down.

Tonight the minister of energy talked about the 15 per cent we are paying. I do not know how much it is now that the