

*The Address—Mr. Fleming*

Yes, indeed, surely everybody must admit that when the National Energy Program was put together, forecasts of what would happen because of the international oil cartel are not what indeed in time did happen. There is an overabundance of supply in some cases, a selling off of various kinds of oil at lower than the cartel price. That has led to the need for some adjustment to the NEP. However, the Canadianization aspect of that national energy policy is fundamental to the future of the country. I am proud the Government had the guts to put forward that policy and fight it through.

I am not critical of content. I am not critical of policies. I offer some criticism of the way we are perceived by the public, and I believe that that tells us we will have to do something about it. I do not think it is an original thought on my part. I think my Party in convention about a year ago overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution using the same words I used in my public criticism. From leaked reports of the Party President's reform commission, similar things have been said. Let me say that at least I am proud we have put forward policies. Let me say there is a great danger to the country in too much, on this side of the House and on the Official Opposition side, cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation rather than hard facts and open discussion. Also let me say that after many years in power there is a danger that one comes to know the tools too well and uses them too well. I find it very frightening that without having power and under this new Leader they have achieved levels of cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation which frighten me. If we have a problem to clean up over here, they certainly do over there. They operate in that manner without at least something we have on this side—sound policies to put forward and the guts to put forward controversial issues which must be put forward if this country is to be kept on track.

When I talk about cynicism, ballyhoo and manipulation, let me just say of the Hon. Member for St. John's West, who has had such glee in quoting me, that I cannot think of an individual in the House, as much as I find myself enjoying his humour from time to time, who produces more fluff and less stuff per 10,000 decibels. Were Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey in business today, he would vie to be the all-time champ in the centre ring, the ring master—all fluff and no stuff and a master of ballyhoo, buffoonery and bluster. P.T. Barnum would jump up and click his heels. We well remember that when the Hon. Member for St. John's West jumped up and clicked his heels, his mukluks fell off and we had an election.

As far as manipulation is concerned, anyone who followed the saga of the Conservative leadership race knows that manipulation took on a space age meaning during that contest. We read now reports of people being brought out to elect delegates and being paid \$10 each. We know of the manipulation of new Canadians, without any explaining to them through language barriers what it was all about, or what the process was, to gain delegate votes. While there were public professions of support for the former Leader by the current Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) behind the scenes, we know now there was a sharpening of many knives and a

great deal of manipulation going on. When I talk about this Party having some problems, thank goodness we do not exercise it quite to the degree they do over there.

Finally, if we have to talk about cynicism and public perceptions, what better source than the current best seller, *Contenders: The Tory Quest for Power*, wherein Patrick Martin, Allan Gregg and George Perlin quote from a very famous memo, now alleged to have been composed by the Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mr. Thomson), who noted in a memo to his leadership candidate, the now Leader of the Opposition, that that person was not trusted because delegates were not certain who he was or what he stood for. They also thought the Leader of the Opposition was an opportunist and believed that people around him were unacceptable. Finally, the memo warned:

Your campaign is a threat. They don't trust you because of the slickness, smoothness . . . feeling there is no substance.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave me the Order of Canada, I thank you very much, for my honesty in talking about problems on this side.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In view of the Hon. Member's reputation, I am sure he would not want to mislead the House, even inadvertently. The John Thompson referred to in that book is not the Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mr. Thomson) nor indeed a Member of Parliament at all.

**Mr. Thacker:** That is right.

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I would suggest it was the John Thompson in question, if it was not the Hon. Member for Calgary South. I certainly would cast no aspersions on him. I think the content is still very interesting, that a senior organizer for the current Leader of the Opposition said what he said. I simply want to point out, if it does not sound too pious because we all have our warts, that as one member of the House, as one Canadian who has been elected, I think it is in the interests of the Canadian public for political Parties on all sides to do better at bringing forward policies.

**Mr. Thacker:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Member clearly alleged that those comments were made by the Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mr. Thomson). They were not, and I insist that he retract those statements immediately.

● (1520)

**Mr. Fleming:** I guess I must be rubbing a raw edge. I said I was sorry if I implied they were by him when they were not by him. I say that openly and honestly.

**Mr. Thacker:** Retract.

**Mr. Fleming:** I have been told they were not by him. If they are not by him, I retract. I said I will check. I understand from the other Hon. Member that they are not. If so, I withdraw the suggestion. Just the same, they have import, as I said a moment ago. At least I have their attention.