

*Extension of Sittings*

both hands tied behind his back? Because the first thing he has to do is ask for a delay. Does that make any sense? It may make sense to some Members opposite simply because, as I said before, they do not know anything about international trade and even less about negotiating national trade agreements. So do not come into the House of Commons and try to tell the people of Canada that you know what you are talking about. We know that you do not.

I want to say one thing about Nova Scotia because Members opposite talked about selling out energy in the agreement. They said that we will be selling Canadian energy cheaper. The Hon. Member from Cape Breton got up and talked about energy. What are we going to do with the oil and gas off the coast of Canada? Are we going to bring it into Vanier in a pipeline and sell it there?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Good idea.

**Mr. Crosby:** Let us get serious. If we are going to develop east coast oil and gas, there is only one customer and it is the United States of America. If that customer is taken away, then that oil and gas will stay in the ground under the ocean forever. Hon. Members opposite know it. If they do not, I am telling them right now.

**An Hon. Member:** What about your mandate?

**Mr. Crosby:** Talking about mandates, where was the mandate for the National Energy Program? Was there any referendum on that? Some \$8 billion was spent on holes in the ocean floor and the Canadian people were not even asked if they wanted it or not. Do not tell us about mandates.

I wish to make one remark generally. We have no monopoly on good faith. But neither do members of the Liberal Party and certainly not members of the New Democratic Party. They continually suggest that they know how to treat the Canadian people. Trust them! They know how to respond to all the problems in Canada is what they say. The NDP has never formed the government, and it never will in my time or in anybody else's time in the House of Commons.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosby:** Yet they can claim moral victories. They run Main Street. They may run Main Street in Coquitlam or some place, but they sure as heck do not run any main streets in Atlantic Canada. I can vouch for that. They do not even walk down the main streets of Atlantic Canada.

Do you know what happened to the NDP in the Nova Scotia election, Madam Speaker? It lost its deposits in 30 of the 52 seats. The Party won two seats—and talk about majorities. The two winners received 36 per cent

of the vote. I would be ashamed to walk into the Chamber with only 36 per cent of the vote. I would say that it is only fair to have a recount and another election.

But do Hon. Members know what the Leader of the NDP in Nova Scotia said? She is now being thought of for national Leader. She said, guess what, it was a—

**Some Hon. Members:** Moral victory!

**Mr. Crosby:** We are not here for any moral victories. We won an electoral victory. We won it with policies that were intended to strengthen the economy of Canada. We are here to put those policies into operation and implement them for the benefit of all Canadians. We are not going to let Members opposite stand in the way.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** Madam Speaker, perhaps I will be closing the debate if the Government will stop putting up speakers. Tonight we are reviewing the rules of the House of Commons, using procedures that were used in this House but only once in more than 100 years. Why has this House operated at almost an impasse in the last week? It is because I believe the Deputy Government House Leader and the Government have failed to recognize the importance of 300 years of British Parliamentary practice. During 121 years of Confederation we have developed British Parliamentary rules for this country, but the Government fails to recognize the importance of that tradition.

• (2350)

It is a fact of recent history that most governments in this country have not had a majority of support of the people of Canada. Yet they have managed to rule the country quite adequately.

There have been times when the Opposition did represent a majority of the country. Yet the Government proceeded through carefully and succeeded in getting a majority of the country to accept its particular proposals.

The Government seems to have forgotten examples provided by previous governments, both Conservative and Liberal. While a government may have had less than a majority, it persevered slowly and carefully, using the rules and recognizing the rights of both sides of the House and that all were attempting to represent their constituents. It eventually got its way in a manner that was accepted by the country because it used the democratic process.