

*Supply*

to be indifferent and cynical toward governments, politicians and national institutions.

When our House leader this morning put before this Chamber a motion of non-confidence, it was done, not for any jockeying back and forth in this House, but it was done on behalf of the mood of some 26 million Canadians from coast to coast to coast. There are by any account, by any poll, roughly 85 per cent of Canadians who neither like nor want this national government. That means that only 15 per cent—and I cannot find them anywhere—still have some confidence in the leadership of this national government.

We think those numbers are alarming, or they should be alarming to the members on the other side, because how are they to lead and inspire a country when, out of 100 people, 85 people do not wish to follow them and, moreover, have said in a number of polls, never again.

• (1740 )

I am not suggesting that every poll is right or that every election from here on in is a foregone conclusion. I am not. What I am saying and what we are saying in the motion is that we have a country that is psychologically tired of the direction and leadership being offered by this government.

Poll after poll after poll is suggesting that Canadians do want an election. They do want an election as a way of opening the windows and allowing in some fresh air, some new air to this home called Canada. I am not saying that we are perfect, that we have all the answers or that we will indeed be the alternative. That is to be earned.

We will certainly do our share and work to demonstrate that we are capable, ready and able to capture that if in fact Canadians wish to bestow that authority on us. What we are saying and what Canadians are certainly reflecting is the desire to allow Canadians to decide.

After all, as the fall approaches we will be in the fourth year of this mandate. This Prime Minister in his pre-life as Prime Minister always said that governments should not go any longer than four years. Four years has been a well-deserved tradition in this country. He has said that under no circumstances should a government go beyond four years.

Now we have the same Prime Minister suggesting to Canadians that they should put out of their mind any

election before 1993, the fifth year of this government's mandate. How handy it has been for this Prime Minister now to argue intellectually things that were repugnant to him only a few years ago.

Yet the message that Canadians are sending to this government is that this government is not there for the Prime Minister to tinker with. This is not his country to experiment with, FTA one year and NAFTA another and perhaps play with the different regions, because this country is here for the long term.

This government is only given a temporary mandate. The decisions that we have been seeing since 1984 have been decisions that have gone to the very root of this country. In the opinion of the majority, those decisions are certainly not in the best interests of this country.

We have Canadians who want the ability to decide and choose a new government. We have Canadians who, economically speaking, are hurting in every region of the country.

What was one mandate of this Prime Minister in 1984? It was economic renewal and the phrase "jobs, jobs and more jobs" overnight on top of it all. Yet, we just spent two weeks in our ridings. You could not go into a cafe. You could not have a constituency appointment. You could not go to a social function on a Friday or Saturday evening without being consumed in discussion after discussion with average Torontonians on the situation of the economy.

I was running into people who for the first time were unemployed and felt undignified in asking how to fill out a UI application. Students who have learned, studied and have degrees cannot find their niches. Older workers, 55 or 60 years old, with a mortgage still and looking forward to finishing another four or five years, are laid off. No one wants to invest in them. The litany goes on.

When you ask Canadians: Do you have economic renewal? Does the FTA help you in Toronto? Do the 400,000 jobs that we lost in manufacturing alone bode for a better future? Does over 10 per cent unemployment in one of the leading international cities of the world, namely Toronto, bode well for the future? On the Constitution, where this government promised national reconciliation, we have a divided House like never before.