

Supply

• (1230)

My question to my colleague is: Does he feel that this approach of Professor Wilson's is valid, and how does it apply to his region?

Mr. Nault: Madam Speaker, my belief is that what this man has said is a true fact. This government has just changed the meaning of the term *laissez-faire*, a term that we used in our history books, to a different type of term which basically means the same thing, that is, getting out of governing and leave the running of the country completely to private enterprise. That will not do much good in northern Ontario because we do not have a lot of companies and a lot of different businesses that can do something to try to get the dollars, the research and development needed or the diversification of the economy in place.

I think the members opposite who do not live in urban Canada but in rural Canada know what I am talking about. If we continue on the route that we are headed, Quebec will not be the only one saying that it is ready to separate. There will be other provinces and parts of provinces starting to say the same thing. If we are not going to be treated equally in this country, if we are not going to be treated as if we belong, and if we are not made to feel like we belong, sooner or later that movement will start not just in Quebec but in the maritimes, in northern Ontario and in western Canada.

What keeps this country together is the fact that past governments believed in national programs, in the equality of all regions. I say to the members opposite that I know there is a lot more work to do, but to ask what did the Liberal government do 20 years ago is not good enough. I say to the members opposite that I was not here 20 years ago. I say to them that they are in their second term now and nothing has happened. I think it is time to change the government and give me a shot at it because I was not here 20 years ago. I am sure I can do a better job than they can because they have not done anything; nothing, except dismantle everything.

Mr. Keyes: They doubled the deficit.

Mr. Nault: They have doubled the deficit, yes. Now they are going to put in place the goods and services tax which again hurts the regions the most.

Mr. Milliken: They cut VIA Rail.

Mr. Nault: They cut VIA Rail, a pet project of ours. I say this has to stop somewhere. This is something that I hear all the time when I am back in my riding. There is already less tolerance in this country, less feeling of being a Canadian. Now it is the dog eat dog attitude of the Conservative government.

If you are doing all right, that is fine, but do not come and bother me and do not expect to collect unemployment. My God, don't do that because that is not acceptable any more. You go out and move somewhere and get a job. Half of Newfoundland is somewhere else now. Do you want the other half to go somewhere else?

Mr. Mills: There is not an ounce of creativity over there.

Mr. Nault: I think what is needed, as my colleague has so aptly put it, is a little creativity and a bit of guts. With that I think we could put this country back together again.

I hope that people will realize that those in the regions that have a small population base are just as important to Canada. That is why previous governments put in place these national policies and national programs. If you are going to start to dismantle them, then we will have to look elsewhere for someone to look after us. We are sure that this particular country called Canada is not worth saving if we cannot treat each other with a little decency and equality.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I listened with a lot of attention to my colleague from Kenora—Rainy River. I concur with my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood who said that he gave a very impassioned speech. However, I should like to remind him that a lot of the policies this government has brought in has been as a direct result of a couple of poison pills we inherited from his party—a flawed constitution and a crippling deficit.

Mr. Mills: Name one poison pill.

Mr. MacKay: I just named two fundamental ones—a flawed constitution that left one-third of the country out of the mainstream and a crippling deficit that has caused us to take extraordinary measures to try to cure.

Mr. Keyes: Which you've doubled.