

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Are there any other examples? None. Later on is the speech you will see, Mr. Speaker, that they are going to bring in an amendment to the Immigration Act. In terms of those five months, however, and in terms of the new spirit of co-operation, they reached two agreements which undid agreements reached by the previous government. There had been an agreement on lotteries reached by the former minister of fitness and amateur sport, the minister from British Columbia. There had been an agreement with the ten provinces which gave some of the share of the lotteries to the federal government and some to the provincial governments. What is this new spirit? We tear up an agreement which is favourable to the provinces and federal government and replace it with an agreement which is favourable to the provinces.

An hon. Member: A give-away.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, giving away some \$50 million to \$70 million per year. They are hoping to get some of that money back. The Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism (Mr. Paproski) is smiling because he knows how little he will get back, if any. I know he will get a few tickets for the Olympics, Mr. Speaker, and I hope he will invite me to share them. As a matter of fact he already has, Mr. Speaker; I thank him for his graciousness.

Mr. Paproski: I will take you over the ski jump.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will go over the ski jump if he comes with me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Then what about the agreement concerning offshore mineral resources? There had been an agreement there also, one that the federal government signed with the three maritime provinces. It was an agreement according to which practically all the revenues were given to the provinces—the net revenues—since the federal government was paying the “upfront” costs. There had been an agreement not to quarrel over jurisdictions. What is this new spirit of federalism, Mr. Speaker, this new nation-building, this new way of building our whole nation which is to respect our individual parts? It is to give it all to them, Mr. Speaker—tearing up the agreement they signed of their own will and giving them the whole works. As I said last year in the Speech from the Throne debate, these are great victories for the Prime Minister who then was bragging about Kingston where he had given, I think, five things that the provinces had asked of him. Now he has given a few more.

It is all very well to talk of co-operation, Mr. Speaker, in an area where the ten provinces together agree that they should get more from the federal government, as in lotteries, and one has to make the difficult assessment of who gets what, as on the price of energy. We have just heard from the Prime Minister and his government that they are giving it very earnest study and consideration, that they do not know if they are going to have any results in time for the budget and whether they are going to be able to bring in a new pricing

[Mr. Trudeau.]

agreement such as was requested or suggested by the caucus committee on energy, meaning some increase of \$5 or \$6 next year—we do not know, Mr. Speaker. But this is an area where co-operation really means something. We have not heard from the Prime Minister if it was Premier Lougheed who told him to go shake himself or if it was Premier Davis. We do not know what the results of these talks were, but we do know that in this spirit of co-operation it will be important for the Prime Minister to bring about some concrete results.

The question of the referendum is another area where the new era of co-operation has brought a great decision. The federal government has decided to give up this one tool it had to counter the separatist government of Quebec which will hold a referendum of its own. What is this new spirit of co-operation which says to the separatist government of Quebec, “If you don’t like referendums we won’t have any”? Some of the provinces do not like the federal government sending decentralized departments into their jurisdictions so the federal government announces it is going to bring to an end the federal program of decentralization which would ensure a federal presence across this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: This would show the provinces in a visible way that there is a federal government, with a federal bureaucracy which is at their service and which is prepared to work for them in their cities, towns and villages. The government puts an end to this, Mr. Speaker. So there is a very, very obvious distinction between our approach to federal-provincial relations, which is to stand for all of Canada and which is to say, Mr. Speaker, that you do not save Canada if through compromise and abdication you have pleased the ten provincial premiers and you still have the word “Canada” written on the maps of the world. You save Canada if you have a government that can speak for Canada and can say that it is in the interests of the people of Canada that this be done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The Speech from the Throne stated “that the way to build a whole nation is to respect our individual parts”. Yes, Mr. Speaker, but there are some cases where you cannot please all the provinces on the pricing of energy. Then the way to build a whole nation is to realize that Canada is more than the sum of its parts; it is more than just ten provincial feudalities which are warring together; it is more than just a piece of geography. Canada exists if there is a national spirit and a national will.

During the election I recall that the Prime Minister talked a lot about Canada being a “community of communities”. He never quite explained to us what he meant by that, but we see now what he meant, Mr. Speaker. A community of communities is a place in his mind where all the communities get the last word and the community of those communities, Canada, takes second place to the will of all the provincial premiers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!