

Supply

that there would be far less compassion for the people of Canada. Again, I base that on the evidence of what the Tories did to their own in broad daylight on national television in Winnipeg. I shudder to think what they would do to the taxpayers behind closed doors. I shudder to think what they would do to the unprotected Canadians behind the secrecy of a closed Cabinet door, if they will skiff fellow Tories in broad daylight.

Mr. Taylor: Keep pulling red herrings across the path.

Mr. Simmons: The Hon. Member for Bow River is talking about red herrings. He would neither recognize the specie nor the colour.

The motion also discusses "this Government's alleged disregard for the practice of Parliament". Is that not touching? Do not make me laugh. Of all the people who should be talking about disregard for Parliament! I have heard of the pot calling the kettle black. That saying applies here. Are we to forget so soon the parliamentary terrorism that took place in the House when the constitutional Bill was before the Chamber? Do we so soon forget that the parliamentary rules were the last things in the minds of Members of the Opposition at that time when they used physical force, threat and intimidation? Those were the instruments they used to hijack this Parliament in the full view of the nation.

● (1600)

Mr. Taylor: We made you refer to the Supreme Court. You wanted to keep it out of the court.

Mr. Simmons: If there is one thing about which Tories are religiously consistent, it is their hypocrisy.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Simmons: Tories are firm believers that if you repeat a lie often enough it becomes the truth.

Mr. Taylor: That is exactly what you are doing now.

Mr. Simmons: Take the lie they repeat about the 18-cent tax on gasoline.

Mr. Taylor: You put on 90 cents.

Mr. Simmons: They conveniently forget that what the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) talked about in that budget was not an 18-cent increase. He said that no matter what the price was they would put an 18-cent tax on top of that. If the Tories want to talk about the amount of taxes on gasoline, why do they not point to what their Tory friends in Ontario are doing for example? They have a 20 per cent ad valorem tax on gasoline.

Mr. Taylor: You put on 90 cents.

Mr. Simmons: Yes, I am sure we put on Bill Davis' tax in Ontario. Come down to earth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Taylor: You put on 90 cents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired. He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Never.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There does not appear to be unanimous consent. The Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) is rising to ask a question.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, for a minute I was worried that the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) had re-emerged with a new manifestation, had been born again. Gradually I was reassured as he emerged as the old reliable Member we have come to expect in this House in terms of his ability to get down to the facts. I do not say that to suggest that I have no respect for him as a person. I do. I am talking about him as a parliamentarian. I must say he stretches my imagination sometimes. Could the Hon. Member explain to the House why if the situation is as bad as he suggests it is with respect to the performance of this Party and its public image, his Party has been down consistently in the polls, to the point that today it enjoys only 30 per cent of the electorate, whereas the Tory Party has grown consistently in the polls, to the point today that it enjoys the support of 50 per cent of the electorate?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for St. John's East, for whom I have respect. I thank him for calling me reliable. He is right; but old, no.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Simmons: The Hon. Member asks how I explain. It is very simple. More people elected to show their preference for the Tories than the Liberals in their response is the polls.

Mr. McGrath: You are right. I cannot quarrel with that.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Laval (Mr. Roy)—Air Transport—Mirabel file—Government position on cargo and improved access highways; the Hon. Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper)—Labour Conditions—Number of young people emigrating. (b) Youth employment programs; (c) Number of jobs created; the Hon. Member for Argenteuil-Papineau (Mr. Gourd)—Air Transport—Mirabel file.