

becoming obsolete. The power has been centralized in the cabinet. We really have a dictatorship between elections.

Do hon. members opposite want to take away the whole intent of the law of Parliament without coming back to Parliament? They have the votes. Let them come back to Parliament and pass an amending act. We will wait here. We get paid to come here, not to go home and take three months' holidays. We will wait, listen to the debate and vote. Let us get the guarantees and the issues out so that the Canadian people will understand. That is what Parliament is all about. That is what Sir John A. Macdonald was talking about when he spoke in Parliament.

The Prime Minister asked for representations today, and on behalf of the New Democratic Party I have tried to give those representations.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I will start out by saying that the best proof that democracy is alive and well in Canada and that we have not in fact been reduced to dictatorship is the fact that the kind of rhetoric we have just heard is listened to—although perhaps not always quietly—and put up with in this most distinguished chamber. I want to tell the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) that I was impressed by his arguments, by his style and by his ability to communicate his thoughts. He almost had me going for a while. If only the hon. member and his party were consistent, I think he would have had me going, perhaps trotting across the floor or something or other.

● (1600)

If the hon. member and his party showed the same kind of concern, the same kind of conviction in Canada during April and May when the referendum was on, that he showed in the House today, I may have taken him seriously, Mr. Speaker. At a time when most of us in this House—and I give the Conservatives and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) credit—were concerned about the future of this country, at a time when most of us in this House miss no opportunity to stand up and be counted for Canada publicly—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: —at a time when we did that, where were the NDP? Silent. Let me tell you why, Mr. Speaker. We have opposite a party of media junkies. They must have their daily or weekly fix.

Some hon. Members: Ha, ha!

Mr. Tobin: We all know that for some time we have been talking about adjourning this session.

An hon. Member: Who is taking a fix now?

Mr. Tobin: We have been talking about adjourning the House tomorrow, and all of a sudden we have developed in the benches opposite a matter of great national concern. On Friday hon. members are going to represent the Canadian people perhaps until three o'clock or four o'clock Saturday

morning, because I will be here. They are going to put on a little display, another fix. You can see them jittering in their boots. Anyway, they have had their fix; now just sit quietly and I will tell them what the government has done since we brought in the throne speech three months ago.

An hon. Member: Yes, fill us in.

Mr. Tobin: I would like to examine some of our policies and enlighten them on the good things we are doing.

I would like to express a number of concerns, Mr. Speaker. We spoke about the importance of responding to individual needs—nothing that hon. members opposite know anything about; they have a cloning process over there. We wanted to bring some assistance to those who need help most in Canada, in particular senior citizens. We have done that. We brought in legislation which will mean a \$35 increase, as we promised those receiving the guaranteed income supplement in Canada. My only concern about that is that some of the provinces in Canada—I can single out my own, Newfoundland—are not passing on that \$35 to senior citizens; they are pocketing most of it and putting it into general revenue.

The hon. member opposite was talking about energy. That is one of the issues mentioned in the throne speech. This is the party which in the last federal election published a paper called "An NDP Made-in-Canada Energy Policy". It was 26 or 27 pages long. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, there was absolutely no reference to that great energy potential in Canada today, Newfoundland's Hibernia, and Ben Nevis in Nova Scotia. I think it was 42 pages long. I think they had the idea that probably Canada stopped at Toronto. As a matter of fact, the election results would indicate that, so far as the NDP is concerned, Canada does not go any further east than Montreal because they have been wiped off the electoral map in Atlantic Canada. And is it any wonder?

Mr. Knowles: How far west do you go?

Mr. Tobin: We go right across the country.

An hon. Member: This sounds like Newfie blarney.

Mr. Tobin: Listen here, m'son, I may twin with you!

Some hon. Members: Ha, ha!

Mr. Knowles: You stopped at Waverley Street in Winnipeg.

Mr. Tobin: First, let me speak for a moment about the Canadian energy policy in Newfoundland. In my province we have on our doorstep today, as we are told every day the estimates are higher, massive potential for development which is becoming more certain every day. We believe in our province and we look upon this potential development as an opportunity to strengthen our social and economic fabric. But despite what some provincial politicians are suggesting, we also look upon this potential bonanza as an opportunity for a province which for 31 years has been sharing in the wealth of this country, the tax dollars of this country, to contribute to the well-being of all Canadians.