

Q. You mentioned energy, do you think Petro-Canada is going to be an issue?

A. I don't think so. I think Mr. Trudeau would need the benefit of some severe difficulties gripping the minds of the Canadian people between now and election day.

Q. Looking down the road a little way, have you any kind of problem-solving scenario for Canada?

A. I would hesitate to predict that we will have solved our unity problems in five years. I'm not sure there is such a thing as a solution. I think there are important currents of opinion in French-

speaking Canada and in English-speaking Canada that are too far apart to have an easy solution. I think there is a good deal of discussion that will have to go on in Quebec, and considerable efforts have to be made in English-speaking Canada to bring more English-speaking Canadians to really accept the realities and the need for the new status of the languages and the need for accommodation. Too insistent efforts in the immediate future might lead to a lot of turbulent waters. I think it is something like our relation to the United States—there is no such thing as a final solution, there is continuing adjustment.

CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI interview with Senator Al Graham, president of the Liberal party, 2 April 1979.

Q. What are the Liberal's best issues?

A. The prime minister has been talking about Canadian unity, about the energy question and, obviously, he will be talking about the economy. We think there will be another key issue in the final days of the campaign, and that's leadership and who the people of Canada want to run the country for the next four or five years.

Q. Is energy a Liberal issue?

A. I think that one of the key issues is whether or not we should have a Petro-Can. Mr. Clark has said that he would do away with Petro-Can; but

when the Exxons of this world intervene in our energy supplies, we need an organization such as Petro-Can.

Q. What about national unity?

A. We were not responsible for the election of the Parti Québécois in the Province of Quebec, but we hope to have a responsibility in helping defeat it at the next election. I think that it's extremely important that Canadian unity is an issue, not just in terms of keeping the country together, or French-English relations, or the question of language, but also in terms of regional economic disparity and western alienation.

Q. Will economic issues help or hurt the Liberals?

A. I think that when we were down in the polls in the fall of 1978, it was because, more than anything else, there was a great deal of uncertainty caused by the devaluation of the dollar. People didn't really understand what the devaluation really meant. The performance of the country in 1978 was quite outstanding; and I think that the devaluation of the dollar contributed in very large measure to that. Now granted, inflation is too high, and in some parts of the country, so is unemployment. You have to relate unemployment to the job participation rate, i.e. the age at which the young people enter the labour market and the number of married women who enter it. If we had the same participation rate as they have in the United States, we would have a million job vacancies in Canada today. In the third quarter of 1978, our corporate profits in Canada were exactly double those of the United States. If you look at our balance of trade for 1978, we were at a record \$3.5 billion; they forecast \$4.2 billion for 1979. The stock market is doing extremely well. Between January 1978 and January 1979, our job creation program produced a record 450,000 jobs in the public and private sectors. The forecast for investment in Canada indicates that it will be double that of 1978.

