● (2225)

Interpreting the latest poll, Doctor David Elton, the President of the Canada West Foundation said:

Such a shift in so short a period of time reflects serious dissatisfaction with national policy.

I urge the government to review its policies before it is too late. I do not want separatism to become a viable political force. But a great collision of forces is coming unless a new spirit of accommodation is injected into policies and ongoing negotiations. It is time for the government to wake up to its responsibility to all people of Canada. That is the only way the country will be held together.

Mr. Ron Irwin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the hon. member that from 1960 to 1973 when we in northern Ontario were paying 25 per cent more than the world price because we had to take Alberta crude, we did not cry about it; we did not say that we would separate. If we thought about it at all, we said, "Well, that is the price of being Canadian; one region helping the other."

Also I remind the hon. member that prior to 1930, those resources were all federal. Within the last ten years multinational oil companies, most of which are foreign, made a 400 per cent increase in profits; a 50 per cent increase last year and a 50 per cent increase the year before.

When the hon. member brought this matter up on November 21, 1980, it was in support of an extension to the Joint Committee on the Constitution, and that was given. At that time he talked about the Constitution and the energy policies alienating Alberta. Now he talks about flames of separatism and roaring prairie fires.

Let us see what was in the Constitution which inflamed separatism. It was basically three things: a formula which indicated that in Canada we will amend in the future and no longer have to go to England cap in hand; a charter of rights which indicates basically that there will be human dignity which no government can change; sections 57 and 58 which give more provincial control of provincial resources.

If we have alienated the west, how have we done it? Was it by questioning the powers of the premiers, by daring to say to the oil companies, "Hey, you are making too much", by suggesting that we are one country and not ten balkanized states? If we have, that is the way a national party should act.

The truth is that at worst no Liberal during the Quebec referendum, went into Quebec and inflamed separatism. At best, what the Tories are thriving on, nourishing on and living on is western separatism.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): What a shameful accusation!

Mr. Irwin: It is true, it is true. At the worst, no Liberal went into Quebec and inflamed separatism and, at best, the Tories are living on it.

I have one consolation. History will record this in the same way as it recorded the flag debate because history has a way of sorting out truth. History will also indicate that there is a reason the Tories are in opposition and the Liberals are in power; it is that they have no national scope.

Mr. Roche: Shocking!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Just dreadful!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

At 10.28 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.