

Economic Conditions

Mr. Fraser: It is not up to you. You are prepared to give foreigners twice as much as you are prepared to give Canadians.

Mr. Smith: I am getting somewhat weary. I hope the hon. member would show some manners. I understand that I will be co-chairing a committee with him on Soviet Jewry. I feel strongly about that issue. I hope we will be able to work together on it, but he will not help the situation by yelling at me. I will not yell at him, and I hope he shows me the same courtesy.

Mr. Fraser: I am just asking some questions.

Mr. Smith: I am weary of the sermons about socialism. They are doing a great disservice to Canadians. I believe in social justice within a free enterprise system, and I feel right at home in my party. If I wanted to go the socialist route, I would be over there with my silver spoon friends, but I am on this side and feel at home.

I heard the speech of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans). I enjoy listening to him. He is great theatre, but he is not very enlightened. We heard all about the problems, but we heard no solutions. I listened to his remarks very carefully, and all he talked about is Canada pursuing an independent path. That is what we are doing. The hon. member should read "The National Energy Program". He might get quite excited about it. If he read it, he would realize that that is what we are trying to do. I feel good about it.

What have we heard tonight? From the Tories we have heard that we are in bed with the NDP. From the NDP we have heard that we are in bed with the Tories. Who are we in bed with?

Mr. McDermid: You are in bed with the Arabs.

Mr. Smith: The truth is that we are probably in the middle, and I feel very comfortable about being in the middle because the middle is the average and this party is a party of average Canadians and this government is a government for average Canadians. We have heard nothing tonight but a lot of hysteria and paranoia.

Canadians should conclude from this debate: first, they should not panic; second, they should not ignore reality; third, they should not believe that the solutions are simple. We should show some confidence in the country. We should recognize that this is a cycle which will turn down. We must show confidence in the security and potential of this country and its future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Good morning, Mr. Speaker, it is 3.20 o'clock. If my people back home are watching, I wonder what they think we are doing here. Personally I have the feeling that we are in an insane asylum. I would like to relate a story which most members have probably heard. This story is about a fellow who was in an asylum. He thinks he is a mouse. He has been in the asylum for some time

and his doctors have been trying to convince him that he is really not a mouse and he should get out in order to get along in the world. He did that a few times but he always came back to the asylum. On this particular day the doctor said to him: "You are not a mouse." He said: "Yes, doctor, I know. You know I am not a mouse and I know I am not a mouse. But what about all those cats out there?"

● (0320)

Now, the Liberal backbenchers have been going home, and they are being told by their constituents: Look, things are bad. You guys told us in February that interest rates are going down, unemployment is going down and inflation is going down and not to believe those bad Conservatives, they were all wrong. So the Liberals come running back in and see Mr. Trudeau in the lobby. They say to him: God, it is bad out there. We are all going to be defeated in the next election. He says: Look, guys, you know things are well out there and I know things are well out there. They say to him: Yes, but what about all those silly people out there who don't know that? And they are standing here tonight repeating all this nonsense that they told the people of Canada last February, that there are easy solutions to complex problems.

When I go home I see more people expressing their frustrations. They feel deceived by a government in which they should have trust. They openly express their feelings of alienation, and in western Canada they express it in terms of separation. What is this all about? People have every reason to feel deceived and cheated. They have been lied to. There is no question about that. People know that. They were lied to in 1974 and in 1979, and now they are being lied to in 1980. On this side of the House we have an old saying which goes: The lie travels half way around the world before the truth gets its running shoes on. We have told the people the truth on all occasions. Last year we told them things could not go on like this. And sure enough, they didn't. They got worse.

What has happened in this country is unbelievable. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has all his cards on the table. Now, he has never lied. He has always told the people the truth, except that they didn't believe him. They did not believe him when he told them to imagine themselves sitting on the deck of a ship looking at the horizon with him in the steering house. He feels the waves and the current pressing against the rudder. He told them the only thing they would have to watch out for was disembarking on an island which they had not been sailing for. Sir, I think we are close to land and close to disembarking some place. But the place this man has steered us to is totally alien and strange to us. It is a place to which we really did not think we were sailing.

Here we have a budget and an energy statement which have an incredibly devastating effect on the economy and on the lives of every individual in this country. It is devastating to the lives of people who want to build a house, begin a family, fulfil a dream. That dream is turning into a nightmare. The minister and his friends sit over there and say that everything is all right, not to worry about things. In 1973 we were a net