

Supply

equivalent to that when he was the Prime Minister and the polls were not showing him in a very kind light at that particular time. How selective they are in the use of polls from time to time. I say to her to stop revelling in yesterday's realities or fantasies, as the case may be. One of these days when the Government's mandate is exhausted we will put it to the test.

Mr. MacKay: Reluctantly.

Mr. Simmons: With enthusiasm. We are waiting for the Tories to get their house in order.

Mr. Smith: It will be a long wait.

Mr. Simmons: We will wait until they get the number of factions in that Party reduced from 30 to the usual four or five. There is one faction that believes it should privatize Petro-Canada, another faction that believes perhaps it should not, and a faction that says perhaps it should study it some more. There is the faction that says "On to Jerusalem" and the faction that says "no, perhaps we should not go to Jerusalem". That Party went to Waterloo instead.

Mr. Taylor: We did not go to Watergate anyway.

Mr. Simmons: The Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) rises from the ashes again.

Mr. Taylor: Tell us about Buchanan?

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I have no adverse comments to make about the Tory Premier of Nova Scotia, Mr. Buchanan. The Hon. Member may have some adverse comments. He invites me to talk about John Buchanan but I have nothing adverse whatsoever to say about him.

Miss MacDonald: It is Judd.

Mr. Simmons: He saw in the Cape Breton affair the opportunity to provide jobs for the people in Nova Scotia using Government of Canada money. Does the Hon. Member now attack that man, one of his fellow Tories? The Member for Bow River may want me to become disparaging about a good Tory who serves one part of the country fairly well, but I will not do that. I will tell him, if he can stand to hear it, some of the facts of the legislation that we have been able to move through the House.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Tell us about Judd.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has some difficulty relating the most recent remarks of the Hon. Member to the subject matter of the resolution.

Mr. Taylor: I cannot relate anything he has said to the motion.

Miss MacDonald: Anything he says at any time.

Mr. Simmons: Still they mumble, Mr. Speaker.

In the last few days even the Toronto "Mop and Pail", officially known as *The Globe and Mail*, found some nice

things to say about the Government. It identified in print, no less, some of the promises that have been kept. It said in passing, "the Tories have tried to block". The word is out about the Tories. Even the Toronto "Mop and Pail" has seen through what those Members over there are up to.

Our nation has been through a very trying economic time. It is not surprising that the Government in power has drawn a fair amount of the flack and tends to get a fair amount of the blame for the economic woes of the country. An intriguing thought to consider is, would things have been different if the Tories had been in power during that period?

Mr. Smith: Yes. They would have been worse.

Mr. Simmons: I say they would have been decidedly different had the Tories been in power.

Mr. Taylor: We would not have sent all the rigs to the U.S.A., I can assure you.

Mr. Simmons: We have seen a Government floundering and going in both directions at the same time. I mentioned their position on Petro-Canada as one example of the kind of decisiveness that that Government would have exercised. They are always on both sides of every issue.

There obviously would have been a disregard for the well-being of those on fixed incomes. I say that in view of the statements of the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens), the Hon. Member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson), and others who want to cut back on the social expenditures of the Government. Their views are publicly on the record. However, they would not come so close as to outline details of what those cut-backs would be because that would put the lie to their argument. In order to make massive cut-backs in public expenditures they would have to effect those on fixed incomes. We have categorically said that we are not prepared to do that.

Mr. Taylor: You did it.

Mr. Simmons: The Hon. Member for Bow River wants to spread the lie that we did it.

Mr. Taylor: You are the one who is lying.

Mr. Simmons: We did not. Those who need assistance receive it from the Government. We saw to it that the income supplement of those people who depend on it was adequately protected.

Mr. Taylor: You cut the supplement on the OAS.

Mr. Simmons: I ask the Hon. Member to contradict that with a straight face.

Mr. Taylor: You cut the superannuates. Wake up.

Mr. Simmons: In what other ways would things be different if the Tories were in power? I can say once again categorically