

Energy

the Liberal party is, then I suggest that they stop their constant support for them, support which has been constant for the last ten years at least in this House, and get on to supporting some more reasonable approaches to these matters.

That is what this resolution is about, Mr. Speaker. It is about betrayal, because all of these 12 increases are hitting the Canadian consumer who has been left to sink or float without any help from this government, all of those increases are not helping to resolve the energy situation at all; they are only helping the government's own finances. Here is the member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) in this House on December 13, 1979—talk about hypocrisy! He said:

How do you conserve fuel in a fishing boat? Do you go half way to the fishing grounds? It is very good to have a car pool in Montreal, Toronto or Vancouver, but can you imagine a boat pool?

He was protesting the 18-cent excise tax and his heart was bleeding, he pretended, for fishermen when they were getting a 10-cent discount over everyone else, together with the farmers. But since then that same member has put a 64-cent a gallon burden on the fishermen of Newfoundland and he is not worrying any longer about conserving fuel in a fishing boat or whether they can go only half way and cannot go any farther. If they could only go half way on 18 cents a gallon excise tax, how far are they going to go on a 64 cents increase that the hon. member for Burin-St. George's and his government have imposed on them in the last year and a half?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): They gaffed them.

Mr. Crosbie: Not very far. That is the kind of sanctimonious hypocrisy we heard in this House on December 13, 1979, when a real attempt to deal with the problems of this country was sabotaged, stuck in the back by the very gentleman opposite who was quoting me with approval tonight from my interview on "Question Period" yesterday. Well, whether in the opposition or the government, I am going to say what I think is right and best for the government and people of Canada. Anyone who reads that interview will see a lot of good sense in it, not the selected malarkey brought up here tonight. And he is never going to find me carrying on with that kind of sanctimonious hypocrisy, to put the best face on it, and then come right back into this House as the government and wheel around 180 degrees and impose increases on gasoline and heating oil prices not even dreamed of in December, 1979, without one cent of assistance to the ordinary people of this country, the farmers, fishermen, the small storekeeper or the ordinary man and woman in Newfoundland who believed him, who sent back five Liberal members here. They will not be sending five Liberal members next time. Not a one will be coming back from Newfoundland—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): They will not forget this one.

Mr. Crosbie:—after the betrayal they have suffered.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is to be done? This government has far worse in store for the Canadian people because at some time the government will have to start raising the price of oil at the wellhead to get an energy pricing agreement, to satisfy

the industry, to give them a cash flow in order to feed the frontier exploration and the offshore. And is the government going to do that on top of all the tax increases that we have had? Nine of the 12 increases in the last year? What are they going to do then? The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources says he will reduce these taxes by 7.5 cents a gallon if Alberta resumes its production. Will he reduce his own tax? It is costing motorists in my district of St. John's West today eighty per cent of this 64 cents a gallon more than a year ago. Will he reduce that 80 per cent tax and give them a break? Will he drop the tax of about 50 cents if Alberta resumes production? He did not answer that the other day.

When is this government going to start being honest? When is this government going to get an energy agreement? When is it going to get interest rates down by doing something that will support and strengthen the Canadian dollar which is weak because of the policies of this government for the last ten years, because of the National Energy Program? It is weak because you are anti-foreign investment, it is weak because of your anti-private sector tactics. That is why the Canadian dollar is weak and interest rates are now 20 per cent. Twenty per cent, and you were so shocked and dumbfounded and amazed and horrified when they were 14 per cent in the fall of 1979.

When are you going to get the show on the road so that we can help Canada? If you do the right things, we will say you are doing the right things, although we are going to blame you still for the way that you lied to the Canadian public. We are never going to forgive you for that. But if you start doing the right things now, we will support you. We are not going to praise you for the way you got back into power. You snuck back into power on your bellies, you slithered back into power with deception; now stand on your feet and govern like men and women. If you adopt policies that help this country and solve that problem, then we will support you on that.

However, there is no sign of you doing it so far, not one sign that you are repenting or that you are prepared to do the proper thing even though you have another four safe years in power. What is the matter with you? For Heaven's sake, start acting like a government and start doing something that will help Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to speak after the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) because he always puts on a great show with a lot of bombast and bluster and what we back on the farm call just plain bull. I hope to spend a little bit of time talking about that because he spent a lot of time talking about the great deal they had with Alberta when they were in government, and it is interesting that he talks a lot about that but nobody ever actually comes up with the piece of paper showing the deal that they actually made.

Supposedly the Conservative government from Ottawa and the Conservative government in Alberta can get together and sign a deal very easily. And of course, if we look at the