

Economic Conditions

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It would be my intention to recognize the hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington).

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. As hon. members will realize, I just entered the chair a few moments ago. I know of no reason why that would not be the correct decision. If the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae) is rising on a point of order because he may object, I will listen to whatever reason he may have for the Chair changing the order of recognizing hon. members.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker can see whomever he chooses, and I recognize that. I simply point out that I was seeking the floor because it was generally understood that I would be rising at this time. There have been three speakers on the Conservative side in a row, and I do not think it is unreasonable for me to expect to be recognized at this point.

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order concerning remarks which I believe were made by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan), if he is sitting in his right place. The hon. member used the words "Polish sausage". I happen to be of Polish heritage, and I ask the hon. member to withdraw those remarks or get out of this House. That is not parliamentary language. He is discriminating against me as a member of this House, and he is discriminating against over seven million Canadians who have Italian, Polish and Ukrainian backgrounds.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Flis: He should not be sitting in the House. I ask Mr. Speaker to ask the member to withdraw his remarks or leave the House.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would not want to insult Polish sausage after listening to the hon. member.

Mr. Clark: Well said.

Mr. McGrath: What is wrong with Polish sausage?

An hon. Member: Who said anything about Polish sausage?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I will take a moment to explain. As far as I understand it, the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) led off the debate. I will do the necessary minute mathematical calculations in terms of the proportions of the House, but I think I am correct in recognizing the hon. member for Capilano.

Mr. Waddell: That is unfair!

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My party has been here carrying on the debate and the other party has remained seated. I am prepared to follow the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen).

I was very impressed with an interview conducted by Mr. Jack Webster in Vancouver of Ilya Gera a journalist expelled from the Soviet Union some 18 months ago. He has made Canada his home for the last ten months and has developed a deep love for this country, but in commenting upon the politics of this land he said that Canadian politics were well behind those of Pakistan. After listening to the Minister of Finance tonight, I think the opinion this new Canadian has gleaned of our politics has been confirmed amply. This government rules by confrontation, not dialogue; it rules by passion, not reason. I am just amazed when they appeal to the reason of the people on this side of the House, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) goes to Regina to tell people in the west to speak with reason and not passion, when it is the passion of this government and the passionate statements of this government which have riled the country to the point it is at now.

Also, the government rules by change, not continuity, and it is sudden change with which we are dealing tonight. If the words of Albert Schweitzer ring true, "Truth has no special time of its own; its hour is now and always", I should like to remind members on the government side that it is now time in Canada's history to return to the truth and face the truth of the issues before us now. There is no point in blaming it, as the Minister of Finance has just done, on the world and saying there is inflation all over the world. He blamed it on the oil crisis of 1978, yet countries with work ethics like Japan and Germany have been able to adjust and manufacture goods to offset the penalty they have been required to pay. They have paid a greater penalty than we have paid because they do not have energy sources such as ours.

Also I remind the Minister of Finance that the projections in the United States are that its inflation rate by 1984-85 will be down to the 4 per cent or 5 per cent bracket. The United States has already adjusted its economy to the world price of oil. These are the things we are not facing up to. These are the truths which the government refuses to face, truths which are aggravating the economic health of the country.

Many times I have pleaded in the House with the Liberals to give back to the business sector a decision-making base, a base which would return wealth-creating decisions to the boardrooms of the nation. What the boardrooms have given this nation is wealth. Now the government has given the wealth of this nation to the accountants and the lawyers who continue to try to get through the maze of confusion which has almost destroyed the private sector. Mr. Speaker, some time ago there was a call for the government to get out of the bedrooms of the nation. My call tonight is for this government to get out of the boardrooms of the nation and let the brains of the nation manage and create wealth and deliver something which will solve the problems of the nation.

● (2200)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Huntington: What we ask is for the government to set down the rules of behaviour expected by the business community. We ask the government to set down the objectives which