

Parliament who may have happened to be in the elevator. They were not merely laughing at a few institutions which they like to distort and misrepresent from time to time. They were laughing at all western Canadians. Their behaviour offers a sad commentary on the Trudeau party—not the Liberal party. It is not the old time Liberal party of Mackenzie King or Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it is a party of Trudeau socialists. Let us not kid around about that.

Mr. Knowles: Who wants Mackenzie King back?

Mr. Siddon: He is not coming back. The hon. member likes Trudeau much better than Mackenzie King I am sure.

The Trudeau party fails to understand the regional realities and the aspirations of eight provinces where they are not well represented. They are making an appalling effort to try to understand them. It seems to me the gift of power is something entrusted to a government which should be used to advance the interests of all regions of Canada, not to hit one or two regions across the backside with a double-edged broad-axe as this party has done. They are misusing the power they gained in the last election, the power which was given to them for the purpose of benefiting those who gave it to them. They are snubbing the rest of the people, particularly those in the west.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is crying out for leadership, not divisive, devious and petulant leadership by a socialist Prime Minister, who is hellbent on changing our national fabric to suit his fanciful philosophy. Canadians do not appreciate the irresponsibility shown by this man who creates a furore at home in the constitutional and budgetary areas, who then goes cavorting off to Arabia to dance sheik to sheik in the desert. This is a man who has more time for international gladhanding than he has for solving the problems which he has created almost single handedly with the help of his energy minister. Canada does not need that kind of leadership.

Canada needs the kind of leadership which was given to it in the nine short months of the previous Clark administration. That was the government which restored national harmony. That was the government which put the nation at peace with Quebec, which distributed goodwill among the people and governments of Canada. That cannot be denied by any member in this House. The previous government was a government which restored financial responsibility. It was a government which began to set our national priorities straight. In spite of all the foofaraw on the other side an agreement on oil pricing was reached by the Clark government.

An hon. Member: Table it then!

Mr. Siddon: There was an energy policy which left some of the revenues in the pockets of individual, privately owned, free Canadian oil companies to advance in the national interests. There was a budget. Most Canadians I talk to nowadays regret having seen that budget defeated. There was freedom of information legislation along with a number of other progressive measures. All the statistical indicators show that Canada was going in a different direction. You may look at any of the

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figures to see that direction with respect to the level of employment in the public service, the level of unemployment, the rate of inflation, and any other statistics, that you care to look at. Finally, Mr. Speaker, that government restored a degree of honesty to the government benches which we do not see in the deceit, the misrepresentation and the charlatan trickery practised by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) in the presentation of his energy program and the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) in the presentation of his budget.

Yes, the former prime minister provided the leadership which Canada desperately needs for the 1980s. Alas, the deceit and the political opportunism of the Trudeau flock snatched that new hope away and replaced it with a government which is, frankly, drunk with power. It has been replaced by a government which seems willing to stoop to any tactic with respect to constitutional matters, energy matters and the implementation of the Petroleum Administration Act. Its supporters seem willing to stoop to any tactic to play their political best, even to risk the destruction of my country and theirs.

This country has tremendous potential. It was well worth the building over 113 years. It is a country which was well worth fighting for in the three great wars. It is certainly well worth saving in the face of, and in spite of, the actions of a few petty-minded, idealistic politicians who have no understanding of the way the real world works. The secret of the success of our country is not more dependence on Ottawa, it is not independence of the various regions, which are now going in different directions. The secret of the success of our country and our future strength rests upon interdependence. That is how the wars were won in the past decades. That is how the energy crisis will be confronted and overcome in this decade. That interdependence will involve the funding and the provision of an economic climate for the building of some seven or eight oilsands plants, heavy oil projects, extraction and development, exploration for natural gas, all of which will involve billions of dollars of capital. That is capital which ought to be spent in Canada, not in Saudi Arabia. It is capital which should be recycled in our economy over the next 25 years to the extent that trillions of dollars—yes, indeed, trillions of dollars—will circulate through the Canadian economy. Those dollars will be spent in all regions of Canada. They will be very important to the industrial centre of our economy. If we are to become interdependent again and have more respect for one another we cannot go around setting premier against premier. We cannot have a petulant Prime Minister putting himself on a platform above all premiers and calling each of them names. We must learn to share by consent, not by decree. We must restore respect for the right of the individual to his freedom. We must restore freedom to businesses so that they will be able to enjoy corporate freedoms under the rule of law in this country. We must restore self-confidence to the regions, the businesses, the communities, which are the building blocks of our country. We must not shatter that confidence the way it has been shattered in recent months.