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and come up with some answers. It says that the Western Accord is enough. The Western Accord is out of date. It is obsolescent. It no longer has any meaning. In fact, it is part of the problem. Is it any wonder that westerners ask, what will we do about it? Is it any wonder that the 25,000 people who are unemployed in the oil and gas sector should not ask, where are the special government programs that will put us back to work until there is a revival in the oil and gas industry?

I remind the House of the period of 1980-81 when the automobile industry was in the same type of crunch, and the previous Government introduced ILAP which provided for job creation and industrial investment in those communities that were badly affected by the downturn in the oil industry. The skilled workers and the industry employees were kept in place, and those communities were kept alive until there was an upturn in that industry. Now the automobile industry is leading the economic growth of this country.

I would say that this is the type of response that could be applied to help those unemployed people, and those people who are going on welfare. This would be direct commitment in the short term, combined with a longer term development that would give stability and prospects of growth back to the oil and gas industry. Again, we have absolutely nothing.

In this resolution we are putting forward a call for coming together under the leadership of the federal Government, provincial Governments, business, labour, and farm groups to work out an action plan for that economy that shows that we are prepared to come to grips with the issues, that we are prepared to recognize that it is an emergency that requires serious and effective application by all levels of Government and by the private sector to work out solutions. That is what westerners expect and demand. That is what we are representing in this resolution.

I hope it is the type of positive suggestion that can be supported by all Members of the House. We are not saying, do not do anything; we are saying that here is a perfectly constructive initiative that is proposed in this House that will give some hope and meaning to the people of the western sector. It will say to them that the Parliament of Canada is responding to their needs; it recognizes the depth of their problems, and the type of energy and focus that is required. This Parliament is making a serious recommendation for the Government to follow. Surely that is the type of recommendation and proposal that all Members of this House can support. It will show westerners that indeed all Parties in Parliament will aid and assist a vital region and put those economies back on their feet, so that once again they can provide leadership and dynamics for economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) on a question or comment.

Mr. Schellenberger: The Member who just spoke made the charge that on the CF-18 contract there was no opportunity for a technology update to western Canada. Would the Hon. Member advise me how he can state that when \$300 million of

that contract is going to Edmonton, to a firm in my riding, namely, Northwest Industries, which will be dealing with all the work on the CF-18s out of western Canada in the large plant that it has in Edmonton? This will create up to 100 jobs in that area over the lifetime of the contract. It will allow the professional people of Edmonton and the area to have that technology update. It will allow them to continue to participate in the modern repairing of aircraft. Western Canada is participating in this contract in a significant way, except that it is in Edmonton rather than Winnipeg.

Mr. Axworthy: If that remark is symptomatic of the approach taken by Conservative Members of Parliament from Alberta, then God help Alberta and western Canada. If they are prepared to accept some crumbs because the pot of porridge that was on the table was missed, then it is no wonder that we have this type of tragedy taking place in that province. It is no wonder that the Province of Alberta is not being well served by its Members of Parliament, if that is symptomatic of the attitude. Here we have a western Canadian consortium that won a contract based upon the criteria of competence, cost, and technology, and with political interference it was taken away from them. That process was distorted. Then a small, piddling portion, 5 per cent of that project, is given to another company in another province. It is that type of disunity and fractionalism that hurts and injures western Canada. It is that unwillingness to come together in unison to defend the rights of western Canada and defend its prerogative that is our downfall. The Hon. Member should be ashamed for even standing up in the House and suggesting that that was somehow a fair trade-off. It is an embarrassment to hear that from a Member of Parliament from western Canada.

An Hon. Member: Tell that to his constituents.

Mr. Schellenberger: I asked the Hon. Member whether he would justify his statement that there was no transfer of technology to Edmonton. In reply I received a large, protracted statement defending his position.

I would like to ask another question. The Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) made a long statement about the weakness of the oil industry. I agree with him that due to international prices, the oil industry in western Canada is suffering dramatically. The oil industry would have been better prepared to handle this downturn in oil prices if approximately \$50 billion had not been sucked out of it by the National Energy Program, which that Member and his Cabinet put in place. Now that it is in a weakened state and recovering after the National Energy Program was removed, world prices have intervened. In the meantime, this Government has put in place a number of programs to alleviate those discriminatory taxes. Would the Hon. Member comment on whether he agrees with me that the oil industry would be in far better shape if it had been able to retain that money and not lost it from the western Canadian business sector to general revenue in Ottawa?