

Oral Questions

we put subsidies into the Atlantic provinces in order to create economic growth there. That has been our policy.

I cannot understand the hon. member, who is certainly in disagreement with the Atlantic premiers, when he says they do not want any form of subsidy. They hope eventually to reach the stage of economic growth where they can help the rest of Canada, and this is our hope too. The commitment we have made regarding the offshore is that until the provinces with resources off their shores have reached the average income in Canada, we intend to see that they get the overwhelming part of the resources from the offshore, precisely so that they will not have to receive subsidies.

We do not count DREE as one aspect of subsidy, as the hon. member seems to do, as against comparative statistics on income. I know that the statistics show that since DREE was instituted in 1969, the migration from the maritimes has been reversed. I think this shows that people are now moving to the maritimes because they see that in the ten years of Liberal federal government they have been given a chance to prosper.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: I have a final supplementary question, Madam Speaker. People are moving back to the maritimes because under Liberal government there is no opportunity anywhere in Canada, and they might as well move back to the Atlantic provinces where the Tory provincial governments are.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: I cite the figures that government spending has increased, in real terms, 60.6 per cent from 1970 to 1978, while DREE spending decreased 22 per cent, to show the Prime Minister that he is falling down in his commitment to the people of Atlantic Canada.

I should like to ask him this: would he give his ministry directions to expedite economic and industrial development projects, such as the Synchronlift in the dockyard owned by the government in St. John's harbour which will create jobs, or institute a policy of building east coast fishing vessels in east coast shipyards, something that was done in the budget of December 11; or would he direct his Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to help expedite the opening of the Come-by-Chance oil refinery? These are all things which will create employment and wealth in eastern Canada. That is what we want—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Madam Speaker, and it is essential and at the very core of the energy policy which we will be proposing to this House, and which I will be discussing with Premier Lougheed next week, that this great windfall in energy prices serve to benefit all Canadians and permit us to expedite the very projects with which the hon. member is concerned. This makes me hope that we will have the support

of that party when we try to redistribute the wealth which is coming to this country from windfall OPEC prices.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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OFFSHORE RESOURCES**INDUSTRIAL BENEFIT TO PROVINCES**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, the words of the Prime Minister, of course, are welcome if we could understand and believe that in fact he would give a directive to his ministry to undertake those things. But it is a little difficult to believe him when neither he nor any of his ministers—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Forrestall:—called at the constitutional conference to take place at Acadia University, the first one in Atlantic Canada recently, to back up—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Forrestall: I wonder if the Prime Minister, in light of what he has just said, could give us some assurances—a personal commitment—that the hydrocarbon resources of Hibernia, of the eastern Arctic, of offshore of the Sable shelf, will produce the industrial benefit in the maritimes or in Newfoundland and not be deflected to central Canada. Would he give us that assurance?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Madam Speaker, that is a very reasonable position. It is certainly one that this government takes, that the fallout from offshore resources benefit largely the provinces which are neighbour to those resources. I have stated quite clearly in my policy statements on the offshore that this would be our intention, and I am glad to approve the hon. member's policy in this regard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Forrestall: We are a little leary of gifts. What we want, as the hon. member for St. John's West indicated, is to get out from under transfer arrangements. The Prime Minister knows that we exist in Atlantic Canada on the basis of government to government, and government to people transfers of money.

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I am asking the Prime Minister for his specific assurance that hydrocarbon development in any petrochemical industry, or in any other significant industrial development which comes out of hydrocarbons we are talking about, in fact will take place in the maritimes or in Newfoundland, not in Quebec or Ontario.

An hon. Member: That is the same question.