

The lower price of oil is benefiting the people of central Canada. We are gradually getting the volume up so that we are partly offsetting the loss in price by volume. We know where to find gas. There is lots of it out there. But we have been hampered. We have had our arms tied behind us and a gun put to our head. Finally, in 1985, we took the shackles off the oil industry and gave it free rein. It is learning about freedom. The drilling statistics and projections by the well-known oil analyst, John Lloyd-Price, is just another indication that we are doing what has to be done and doing it properly and well.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a comment. I know many Members from Alberta would like to join in this debate and tell you, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Canada just what these so-called "Silent 21" are doing for the Province of Alberta.

I thought, as a Member from Ontario, that it might be worth-while for me to explain some of the things that Members from Alberta do. Last Thursday I was one of a group of Ontario and Quebec Members of Parliament who were taken to Alberta and given tours of the oil industry. We met with people out there in Bonnyville and Fort McMurray. We were taken out to Alberta by these Members of Parliament who are doing what is right. We learned an awful lot about the oil industry. I took a silly little test before I went out west. I only got 10 questions out of 20 right. Today, however, I could get 20 questions out of 20 right. I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, that Members of Parliament from Alberta are working on behalf of their constituents.

When I met with members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade in Bonnyville, they told me they were pleased. In the Town of Fort McMurray, 35,000 people of the average age of 24, young men and women, are putting their trust in Members of Parliament, who are doing a fine job for them and they know it.

I can also say that through New Canadian technology, the price of manufacturing a barrel of Syncrude is down to, I believe, \$10.60, and we are told they can take it down lower. They have done this through the initiative of the private sector because the Alberta Members of Parliament have made it possible for them to do these things. I think we should all stand and congratulate the 21 Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, after the next election and redistribution, there will not be 21 Conservative Members of Parliament from Alberta, there will be 26 Conservative Members of Parliament.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing like that Horner optimism.

What I would like to speak about is western diversification, but I want to make a couple of comments before that. My friend from Mississauga mentioned "the silent 21". He refers, of course, to Conservative Members of Parliament from Alberta. Perhaps that should be amended. You are in the chair, Mr. Speaker, so it makes it difficult for you to speak

Supply

out. The courageous Member for Edmonton—Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour) has already spoken. So I believe we are down to a Silent 19. We have heard Conservative after Conservative say that the big problem in Alberta was the NEP. They are living in the past as always, looking backwards. I wonder how long they are going to keep on doing that. I remind this House that I too voted against the NEP. If the records were checked, one would find that our Party voted against the NEP. I thought there was too much of a federal tax take in the NEP and I voted against it. The Premier of my province, Allan Blakeney, spoke out strongly against the NEP in terms of the federal tax take. I think the record should be clear on that.

In terms of whether or not there was enough public ownership, that is where I disagree with my friend, the Hon. Member for Calgary North (Mr. Gagnon). He thought there was too much public intervention. I did not think there was enough public intervention. That is because he is a capitalist and I am a socialist. We have this difference. I thought there should be more public intervention in the oil industry.

Petro-Canada should have been started sooner. It should have been a lot larger than it is today. That is a tradition we have in Saskatchewan. Under Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd and Allan Blakeney, Saskatchewan was one of the most prosperous provinces in the country. It never ran a deficit. We have a lot of public ownership in uranium, oil and potash. I am proud to say that Saskatchewan has the biggest potash company in the world under public ownership. I am proud to see the head office in Saskatoon. I am also proud that the people of Saskatchewan support greater public ownership, greater co-operative ownership of the resource industries. Those resources are here for us, the people of Canada, not the multinationals.

I want to see a bigger and stronger Petro-Canada, and I will fight very hard for that. I know the people of this country are behind me when I say that. I speak with perhaps the value of experience. I remember when the Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) was Prime Minister for a short period of time. He wanted to get rid of Petro-Canada, to abolish it, and the people of Canada rebelled.

I respect my friend from Calgary. He has the right to say he does not like Petro-Canada or public ownership and that kind of thing. I am just saying that it is not just a small number of people who want a strong Petro-Canada; it is the majority of the people in this country. That feeling was so strong that that Conservative Prime Minister was driven from office after nine months. After the election, public opinion was so strong that the Hon. Member for Yellowhead, who is a good friend of mine, and the Conservative Party changed their policy about Petro-Canada and decided they would keep Petro-Canada as a Crown corporation. That just shows how strong that feeling was in this country.

When we start talking about public ownership, I make it very clear that I will fight very hard—and I know the majority of the people in this country are behind me—to make sure there is a strong Petro-Canada. I thought from the beginning