

Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act

The second kick which we got was the fall in the international price of oil. This was not a made in Canada price. It was due to an international situation over which Canada had no control. The industry wanted a total free market system and we gave it to them. A recent survey in Alberta showed that 51 per cent of producers contacted did not want a floor price or stabilization while 30 or 31 per cent of them would entertain such an issue. The majority of people only want a fiscal structure to bring into reality the true price of a barrel of oil or an mcf of gas. That which is happening today is an international problem. That which happened in 1980-81 was strictly the result of a Liberal Government policy to rape the west.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I have two short questions which could be answered together. The Member said that Mr. Lalonde, the former Minister of Energy, was "unjust and discriminatory towards the West". How does that differ from the present Prime Minister's unjust and discriminatory treatment with regard to the CF-18 decision?

The Member spoke twice about lowering the deficit. By getting rid of the PGRT the Government will be unable to collect about \$5 billion. Where is the Government going to come up with that money, or does the Member believe the Government should cut programs instead of replacing that money?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I rule the Member's first question out of order. It does not relate to the speech of the Member.

Mrs. Sparrow: Mr. Speaker, I agree that the CF-18 maintenance contract is not relevant to Bill C-17 which we are discussing today. The Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) talks about discrimination with regard to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). I would like to review a few things which the Government has done in the area of agriculture. No Government has done as much as this Government has to support that industry. Including the \$1 billion deficiency payment, the Government has spent almost \$7 billion to help all farmers across Canada.

Mr. Gormley: That is more than any other Government.

Mrs. Sparrow: I do not think it is fair to say that there is discrimination. We removed the National Energy Program and got rid of the unfair discriminatory tax. We increased job creation funding in Alberta. We never received fair payments before. Things are changing. The Government is treating every area of Canada equally with regard to agriculture, energy, and job creation. That is the only way in which all Canadians can work together for a better country.

Mr. Schellenberger: The Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow) is doing so well in responding to questions that I thought I would ask her one as well. The Liberal and NDP speakers were both concerned about gas sales to the United States. Does the Hon. Member have these same concerns?

Will she explain how that will assist cash flow and help self-sufficiency rather than hurt it in any way?

Mrs. Sparrow: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. colleague's question. Gas sales to the United States are absolutely necessary and mandatory if we want security of supply. We cannot sit on the gas. We need activity. Companies need cash flow and in order to get it they must sell their product. We need the markets. As one of my colleagues indicated, the United States is going through a gas bubble. We need to be assured of markets. We need to sell our gas today in order to have supplies tomorrow.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the chance to say a few words on Bill C-17, an Act to amend the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act. I was very interested in the comments of the Hon. Member for Calgary South (Mrs. Sparrow). I thought it was interesting that she spent a lot of time telling us how great everything is with the Tory Government in power. That reminds me of a chap I met in Pembina during the by-election there. He had just come away from hearing the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) make a speech. He said that the Deputy Prime Minister had told them how great everything was and was going to be. He said, "If everything is so great, why do I feel so bad?" That summarizes the situation. The Hon. Member for Calgary South spent much time giving us national statistics. She did not spend much time talking about unemployment in Alberta which has not seen such a nose dive in jobs in at least three or four decades.

• (1740)

In June, the province expected to have an oil and gas exploration program worth up to \$12 billion, but it was reduced to approximately \$6 billion. There are usually 30,000 jobs per billion dollars of oil and gas exploration, and one must ask why the situation is so terrible if the Tory economic policies are so great. It is like the farmer who heard the Deputy Prime Minister make a speech in St. Albert and asked: "If things are so great, why do I feel so bad?" I think that is the way most Albertans feel about the Tory Government.

The Government may talk about billions of dollars and a positive situation, but we see on television that hundreds of millions of dollars in drilling exploration and development equipment is being auctioned off to the highest bidder. No one in Alberta has seen anything like it since the 1930s.

The Hon. Member did not mention that when the Petroleum Incentives Program was abandoned last spring, unfortunately at the same time that world oil prices were dropping dramatically, the PGRT which raised the money was only eliminated after a desperation call by the Tories working in the Pembina by-election. The Government did not want to give up the PGRT for two or three years, even though it had stopped the petroleum incentive grants in March. That program provided approximately 35 per cent grants in the western sedimentary basin in Alberta. The Government removed that at the very