

*Income Tax*

development." They yelled things like, "The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands sounds like a Sacred in the dirty thirties; print your own money, and go ahead and do it."

The economic Neanderthals from the old line parties are incapable of considering the realities of the 1970s. They do not know how to live in the twentieth century. The Tories do not even listen to their own spokesman, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), who complained that Canadians will not have an opportunity to invest in the Syncrude operation with which the minister dealt today. We could develop that project. We have the money and the technology, and we could do it. But my private enterprise friends to my right and across the way, both of whom are to my political right, keep asking, "But where will you get this massive amount of capital?" They say, "Think what all that spending will do for inflation."

I remind the House that a small province, Saskatchewan, with a population under one million, has established a power corporation. Would you believe it, the people of the province own the power corporation, for which they have borrowed about \$1 billion. That loan is being paid off, and the people of the province have available low cost power from this power corporation for which they themselves paid. The corporation provides electricity to 60,000 farmers. It has laid miles and miles of hydro lines, and all this has been done in the little province of Saskatchewan.

But the Liberals and Tories say, "You have to borrow money, and you have to put some equity into an international oil company and let it do the job." We do not need these companies. As a Canadian I was insulted at five o'clock this afternoon by the way the government denigrated the ability of Canadians, suggesting that Canadians could not undertake this development themselves. The Grits and Tories remind me of a hound dog sitting on a cactus with all those needles in his backside, howling for help, but refusing to get up and help himself.

The Syncrude operation can, and should be Canadian owned. I will not argue now whether it should be totally publicly owned or whether ownership should involve a combination of public Canadian ownership and Canadian private ownership. Surely some of my friends from Alberta can tell this House about the millions of dollars available for investment by Canadians and independent Canadian companies.

**An hon. Member:** Not in Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Oh, yes, there are such people.

**Mr. Bawden:** Tell us how many rigs are working in the province.

**Mr. Benjamin:** The hon. gentleman to my right asks how many rigs are working in Saskatchewan. If any rigs have left, it is because they have been blackmailed by international oil companies.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Benjamin:** I am not pretending to be an expert.

**An hon. Member:** But you are!

[Mr. Benjamin.]

**Mr. Benjamin:** But I think I am as expert as some of the mouthpieces in this House for multinational oil corporations pretend to be.

Dozens of Canadian-owned independent drilling and service rigs, oil companies and exploration companies have either gone belly up, or have been bought out by foreign companies. Why? The reason is multinational corporation blackmail.

I would like hon. members from Alberta to tell me how many private independent Canadian-owned drilling and service rigs have left Alberta and are now in Oklahoma and Texas? I ask them, if they are so smart, how come their independent companies in Alberta are in their present situation?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Bawden:** You are going to blow your top.

**Mr. Benjamin:** The budget is designed to prevent the democratically elected government of Saskatchewan from developing, exploring for and producing the province's own oil and mineral resources. It is designed to do nothing but hinder the development of Saskatchewan oil under public auspices. I tell my friends from Calgary, who wonder about how many rigs remain in the province, that Sask Oil has brought in three producing wells.

**An hon. Member:** But how many rigs are in the province?

**Mr. Benjamin:** I don't know. There must be some, because you cannot get producing wells without first drilling some dry holes. So, some rigs must be operating in the province.

Saskatchewan has the capital fund which it set aside and which was not supposed to be subject to equalization; it is set aside for the purpose of exploring for and developing our natural resources, for the benefit of Saskatchewan and not for the benefit of those idiots in Montreal—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

● (2100)

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** Continue.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Is there agreement that the hon. member shall continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Madam Speaker, I thank you and my hon. friends for the privilege of continuing for a few minutes. I know the reason is that members want to see how I will get out of this one. I was thinking about the CPR and that is why I thought of Montreal.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!