

Supply

better do something about inflation or I won't be able to support you anymore". On September 8, 1973, Mr. Trudeau gave a speech. He did something about inflation all right, he put a price freeze on oil and wheat. That is what he did. He said, "We are going to fight inflation by freezing the price of products produced in the west", and David Lewis said, "That's good enough for me".

Then we had the energy wars, the price freeze and the export tax, where the Government said, "Don't worry, we are going to return it to the producers who own it". Then the Government said, "Well, we are only going to return half". Then it said, "We are not going to return any of it at all".

I remember the famous Budget of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), then Minister of Finance, on May 8, 1974. The former Minister said, "By cracky, we are going to put those westerners in their place, those oil tycoons", and he made royalties non-tax deductible and the oil industry came to a grinding and screeching halt. I remember the applause from David Lewis and the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). I remember that very well.

Then there was a little sanity for a period when Donald Macdonald took over as Minister of Energy. We had a little sanity for a few years and some growth. Then we had Allan MacEachen and Marc Lalonde who brought in that great new piece of national policy, the National Energy Program, which confiscated private resources by way of the back-in, which introduced the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax, the natural gas and gas liquids tax, the petroleum compensation charge, the special compensation charge, the Canadian ownership charge and the export tax, *ad nauseam*.

Where were the socialists? They said, "Good for you. We have to put those multinationals in their place. We have to put a stop to this abuse". They brought the west to its knees. An economist at the University of Calgary estimated that over the period from 1974 to 1984, \$50 billion was drained out of the western economy as a result of policies which the socialist party supported every step of the way. I was here and heard those debates.

We were elected on a promise made to the whole country that we would remove the National Energy Program and we would restore world prices, and we did. The best year ever was 1985. Yes, world oil prices collapsed in 1986, but we acted. We accelerated the removal of the rest of the PGRT and introduced the small producers program.

What about the people who work in that industry? What do they have to say about it, the people who know? How about the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, which is in the service sector, and members were just talking about its difficulty? What does it have to say? In a letter dated March 31, 1987, it states:

The announcement by the Hon. Marcel Masse on March 25, 1987, proved that the Government of Canada was aware of industry's plight and was prepared to act very decisively to create a program of assistance through renewed investor interest.

The people who know say we have done the right thing and applaud us. The socialists and the Liberals, who do not have a clue about what is going on out there, say we have not done anything. How about SEPAC, the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada? In a letter of March 27, 1987, it states:

Mr. Masse's program meets or exceeds all of SEPAC requirements. More importantly however, the package reintroduces fairness and equality into our system.

That is what people who know are saying about the programs we have introduced. Compare that to the Grit-socialist record. People out there have not forgotten. That is why in Alberta we talk about polls but the polls the NDP talk about do not exist in Alberta because Albertans know that this Government has acted.

The point was made by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) that we should not look at the past but to the future. He asks us what we are today. Let us look at today. I was born and raised in Alberta and for as long as I can remember, and according to my teachers and parents for as long as the province has existed, there have been three burning issues in the west; there have been three major complaints about what it was getting out of Confederation. The first is resource policy, because when the provinces were formed they were not given the constitutional responsibility for resources. That only came in 1935 as a result of a Conservative Government. The energy policies, as we know from the NEP and the policies which preceded it—that David Lewis insisted on—still enabled the federal Government to abuse the resources of western Canada when it so chose and it chose to do it during that period, with the support of the socialists.

There are the other two issues of particular relevance today. For as long as anyone in the west can remember the complaint has been about the trade situation in the country, that everything the west produced had to be sold at world prices and everything we bought had to be at higher than world prices from behind tariff protected laws. The demand for fairness in that trade situation *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world has been a constant demand in the west since the provinces were formed in 1908. We are acting on that. This Government is acting through these free trade negotiations. We are addressing an historical Albertan complaint, but where do the socialists and the Liberals stand on this historic Albertan complaint? They stand on the other side, all the while claiming they are concerned about the west, and Alberta in particular. What hypocrisy.

There is another issue which goes back to the formation of the province and has been there as a burning and frustrating concern to westerners, and that is transportation. The transportation system made it very difficult if not impossible for western industry to compete, because of the set of regulated rail rates and so on. Everything was f.o.b. Alberta if we were exporting and f.o.b. Toronto if we were purchasing. The rates made it impossible to compete. That is being addressed with Bill C-18 and Bill C-19 by this Government. Where is the