

Supply

of Alberta threatened to split the federal and provincial wings of the Tory Party.

Mr. Shields: Not true.

Mr. Foster: The amount of money in that program is being totally wiped out by the decision of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Some \$400 million will be wiped off the books, charged back to the oil and gas exploration companies in Alberta. The net effect will be zero. Not only should the Government bring in useful programs such as this, but it is also important that when it is setting the border reference price and adopting policies they not be used in such a way that the United States takes away \$400 million worth of the Canadian Government's benefits.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, I have listened to some amazing debate in the House of Commons since my election. However, I must say that the most amazing that I have heard yet was the speech made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) this morning who tried to defend his completely indefensible, completely inconsistent and completely unsuccessful policy with respect to the natural gas industry.

Mr. Shields: Where does the NDP stand on natural gas exports?

Mr. Langdon: I will come to that.

I have just come back from Edmonton from a meeting with our NDP caucus out there. The last time that I was there—

Mr. Shields: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am sure the Hon. Member would not want to mislead the House. He said that he met with the NDP provincial caucus. There is not a New Democratic Party in Alberta. Members of the Party call themselves NDs, although I do not know what that means.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. I do not think that the Hon. Member really wanted to interrupt—

Mr. Shields: That was a point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It was not a point of order.

Mr. Shields: Let him be accurate.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon).

Mr. Langdon: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member's point of order is consistent with his usual points of order.

The last time I met with the New Democratic Party caucus in Alberta, Ray Martin and I sat down for coffee. This time, of course, there was a roomful of people. There was a very solid opposition being mounted during Question Period. In short, it

was the death knell of the Conservative Government in Alberta. One must say that that is long overdue.

We have had today, in view of what is taking place in Alberta, a most amazing performance by the Minister of Energy. When I grew up Alberta was noted throughout Canada for its prosperity. Now, they tell me, there are over 30,000 people dependent on food banks in the City of Edmonton alone. Unemployment is among the highest in the prairie provinces. There is a sense of grievance and unhappiness with a Government which simply cannot work its way to succeeding, even with a fellow Conservative Government in Ottawa, in obtaining changes to benefit Alberta.

● (1610)

I might say parenthetically that one of the subjects we discussed was the two-year battle of the Alberta Government to try to get changes in the IRDP. This effort included letters from Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jim Horsman and the Parliamentary Secretary from Lethbridge, yet no significant changes were brought about. For the Cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and the regions surrounding them, which are so important to the growth of Alberta, this meant they were unable to get access to the IRDP. That program was set up for the poorer parts of the country facing the kind of downturn Alberta has faced over the last couple of years.

With that as the background, it was with a sense of tragedy, a sense of the inevitable increase in growth of western alienation and active opposition to the federal Government, as well as the inevitable increase in damage to the people of Alberta, that I listened to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources speak this morning. There was such an incredible lack of knowledge on his part. I must say he was a fine Minister of Communications, but he is a lousy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When he gets up in the House and says 57 per cent of the shares of Dome Petroleum are not owned by Canadians so it is not a Canadian company, he is either trying deliberately to mislead the House, which I could not believe such a cultured Minister would do, or he is trying to demonstrate his lack of knowledge. Control is exercised by far less than even the 43 per cent of Dome which is held in Canadian hands.

The Minister then started to quote from *The Toronto Sun*. If that was the ultimate that the Minister could come up with as his source of expertise on the petroleum industry of Alberta, it shows where he is. It shows us how much impact the Members from Alberta have had on him. He quoted from *The Toronto Sun*, that paragon of energy expertise, and indicated what he was concerned about was what the *The Toronto Sun* referred to as the poorer offers for Dome Petroleum as a result of any intervention which might stop the Amoco takeover. Of course what was being talked about in the House, and has been for so many days that I would think even *The Toronto Sun* would have absorbed it, was the suggestion of a Canadian consortium being put together to buy Dome. If necessary it could have been led by PetroCan or TCPL. That would leave