

Canada Petroleum Resources Act

away. We have given back to the oil companies the PGRT tax worth billions of dollars.

What have the international conglomerates given us? What commitment have they made to security of supply? What commitment have they made to developing frontier lands which are expensive, which are non-conventional? I will tell you the commitment, Mr. Speaker. We have gone from 14 rigs to four rigs. What commitment have they given the people of this country that a workforce which has been trained and assembled over the last 10 years will be maintained through this period of recession? None. They are laying them off by the tens of thousands.

If that is the Government's view of what the free market-place is, and if its view of this country is that it is but a piece of real estate, a chip to be played on the monopoly board of the international market-place, I can tell the Government that is not the view of Canadians. Even though one feels like a voice in the wind trying to impress upon the Government the reality of this country, I again beg Hon. Members opposite, who know and understand what I am saying is true, to reconsider this slavish commitment to a free market system which may well serve only those people who occupy boardrooms outside of Canada. It is a system which, in the currently recessed market of world oil prices, is not serving this country well. I beg Hon. Members to make the commitment to see that Canada not only prospers but that our resources serve our people, not only in terms of revenue but in terms of jobs and a technology which otherwise will be lost.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member speaks eloquently but I sometimes wonder exactly what he is getting at. At one point I heard him say he was much in favour of free enterprise. He said: "I am a free enterpriser". But at the end of his speech he seemed not quite in favour of free enterprise. He is worried about this Bill. He quite correctly perceives that this Bill will feather more nests in the boardrooms of this country—and I would not even limit it to this country. It will help Mobil Oil and the large American multinationals, and the Canadian Oil Companies will get frozen out of the frontier where, under the Liberals' National Energy Program, they had just begun to appear.

I have two questions for the Hon. Member. First, if he is such a fervent free enterpriser and wants to leave it to the market, what does he think that will do to Newfoundland? If we had a completely free market, without any use of the federal state, the state of Canada, it seems to me that Newfoundland would go from 15 per cent or 20 per cent unemployment to 60 per cent or 70 per cent unemployment. Is the Hon. Member not being hypocritical when he waxes on about his commitment to free enterprise? Is he not, in a typical Liberal fashion, trying to walk both sides of the street at the same time? That is what the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) likes to call a "mugwump". That is a guy who sits on the fence and has his mug on one side and his wump on the other and tries to sit there so he does not have to come down on either one, which is modern

day Canadian Liberalism. That is my definition of "mugwumpery".

My second question is in a little more serious vein. The Hon. Member is from Newfoundland. What does he advocate for the oil industry in Newfoundland? I know a succession of provincial politicians have held out the sort of pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I am from British Columbia and I would like to see Atlantic Canada, especially Newfoundland, prosper.

Mr. Tobin: We would like to see B.C. prosper.

Mr. Waddell: Yes, I know the Hon. Member would like to see us prosper. Some of my best friends are Newfoundlanders. How would the Hon. Member propose to keep Hibernia going in this time of low oil prices? At \$15 U.S. a barrel, there is not going to be any Hibernia in the immediate future. Let us face facts. Would the Hon. Member keep the oil going there or would he forget about that? The Hon. Member is from Cornerbrook, the forestry and fishing area, the traditional strengths of Newfoundland. Would the Hon. Member keep going with the oil industry? Let us be honest. Would the Hon. Member tell us what he really thinks? Don't be a Liberal for a moment. Tell us what you really think. How are we going to deal with this oil boom? Are we going to keep it going or not?

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I am always delighted when the young fellow from British Columbia gets up and asks a question because it gives us humble, quiet spoken and articulate people from Newfoundland, who look as often as we can for an opportunity, to explain the concept of Liberalism to Hon. Members in this House who otherwise may be confused. The very nature of the question asked by the Hon. Member points to the need for a vibrant and moderate Liberal voice in this country. The Hon. Member asks if I am a free enterpriser—and one can only be a free enterpriser—or am I socialist—and one can only be a socialist—because one cannot be a free enterpriser and have a social conscience. The question illustrates best what is so sad and tragic about a Party which initially found as its *raison d'être* the notion of reform of the political system. The Hon. Member shows the contemporary face of the New Democratic Party which has become more conservative in terms of its doctrine and philosophy than the Conservatives. The Conservatives have a fixation that the free market system, and the free market system only, should provide all goods and services. Despite its earlier reformist roots, the New Democratic Party has a firm fixation that government and government only should provide all goods and services.

● (1600)

Being a person from a young part of the country—in fact, the newest province which only joined Confederation in 1949—I have discovered that rather than being married and slavishly loyal to a philosophy either left or right we ought to take what is good about social policy and what is good about the free enterprise system and marry the two. That is called a pragmatic approach to society. It is one which recognizes that