

S. O. 31

[English]

PETRO-CANADA

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation has withdrawn its scholarship support for the University of Alberta Summer Petroleum Program.

Petro-Canada arrogantly withdrew its support without notifying the University of Alberta, forcing the cancellation of the program. The Summer Petroleum Program has trained over 300 people from developing countries in the last seven years.

It has trained people who have come back to Alberta to buy petroleum equipment and technology.

Meanwhile, Petro-Canada is providing \$10 million over five years to an institution in central Canada, quadruple the support that the University of Alberta has received and to an institution over 2,500 miles from the oil patch.

I condemn the arrogant, smug, self-satisfied bureaucrats in the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, centralist bureaucrats who did not even have the common decency to notify the University of Alberta.

Western Canadians deserve better than a slap in the face.

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SCOTIA SYNFUELS PROJECT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, Cape Breton is a region that has experienced more than its share of economic uncertainty. The Scotia Synfuels project could mean a revitalization of the island's economy. This project promises to create at least 2,000 permanent jobs for industrial Cape Breton and the north eastern mainland of Nova Scotia.

This is a project that is environmentally sensitive as it will utilize the most environmentally advanced fuel system for power plants. Private investors are assuming the major risk here and not the taxpayer. This project will provide more than \$800 million in corporation taxes.

The Scotia Synfuels project will build on the strength of the people of Cape Breton and on the strength of its natural resources, namely, coal.

On April 18, 1990 the Nova Scotia legislature passed an all-party resolution in support of this project. Likewise, yesterday, the mayors and wardens of all of Cape Breton lent their unqualified support to this project.

This project, however, needs the approval of the federal government for the Cape Breton investment tax credit and the incentives of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

I call upon the Government of Canada to recommend this valuable project as this is a project that will bring economic growth to the area and give Cape Bretoners hope for a future.

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ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, as the winds of democratic reform continue to blow throughout the world, it is refreshing to see Canadians right here in Ontario initiating innovative improvements to our own democracy.

The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party deserves heartiest congratulations for allowing all of its members a direct vote in electing Michael Harris, MPP for Nipissing, leader of that great party.

Congratulations are also in order for Dianne Cunningham, MPP for London North, for waging a tough, classy campaign. All members on this side of the House, I am sure, join with me in wishing Mike Harris well as he begins his important role as leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

This Progressive Conservative initiative serves as an excellent example of democracy in action, not only for this House but all legislatures across the country.

Freedom seeking people everywhere can learn an important lesson from this exercise, that once attained, democracy must evolve in order to flourish. In Ontario, democracy is flourishing.