

Democrats, no doubt the amendments would have passed. Yes, I would like to throw most of the Tories off the committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 1.01 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ENERGY

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the Government's energy policy is on the rocks. We have the worst of all worlds—low crude oil prices for producers, and high retail prices for consumers. Last year the Government promised hundreds of thousands of jobs and that energy would be the engine of growth for the Canadian economy. Today we see low oil prices for exploration and development in western Canada. Cut-backs of \$3 billion to \$4 billion are expected this year in exploration and development, a loss of 100,000 jobs to the Canadian economy. The loss is not only in western Canada but in communities like Sault Ste. Marie at Algoma Steel where 1,500 jobs will be lost due to the Government's policy on energy.

At the same time retail prices have dropped slowly, and much less than in the U.S.A. The ultimate insult to Canadians is that Petro-Canada is selling its gasoline to distributors in the U.S. for 7.5 cents per litre less than in Canada. Tory energy policy is the worst of all worlds.

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MINES AND MINING

COMINCO LAY-OFFS IN TRAIL, B.C.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the West Kootenay region of British Columbia, especially the community of Trail, is staggering under an unemployment rate of more than 20 per cent. The major regional employer, Cominco, has laid off 500 employees this year alone in Trail and at its lead mine in Kimberley. The future of the area has been thrown into jeopardy by slumping world metal prices and by the inaction of both the provincial and federal Governments over the years. So great is the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Cominco operation and the future of the Trail region that home mortgages are unavailable in some instances.

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While the federal Government has indicated a willingness to assist in modernizing Cominco's antiquated smelter, it has been unable to work out a co-operative arrangement with the provincial Government. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised better federal-provincial co-operation. However, on this critical issue there has been very little co-operation in developing a strategy and rescue package. The people of the West Kootenays are calling for action by senior levels of Government, not simply promises of action.

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AGRICULTURE

WORLD COMMODITY SITUATION—FARMERS' NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian farmer makes a tremendous contribution to Canada's balance of trade and its economic well-being. There are approximately 500,000 Canadians employed directly in agriculture, and approximately 2 million employed directly or indirectly in agriculture and food. Including the processing, wholesale, and retail sectors, food and agriculture account for more than a quarter of all the economic activity in Canada, and Canadian farmers are among the most efficient in the world.

This high productivity of our agri-food system means that Canadians, on average, spend less than 16 per cent of their income on food, the second lowest percentage in the world. However, Canadian farmers face an uncertain future because of the world agricultural commodity situation. The federal Government has done a great deal for agriculture, but there is still much to be done in light of the current crisis. For the sake of Canada, our farmers need and deserve the immediate attention and assistance of Government at all levels and, indeed, the support of all Canadians, rural and urban.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BENEFITS DERIVED FROM INVESTMENT

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, Larkin Kerwin, President of the National Research Council, recently highlighted the neglect of two generations on the status of science and technology in Canada. The result is that revenue and jobs that could have been available have gone to countries more technologically oriented than Canada. In 1985 Canada imported \$12 billion more worth of high technology goods than we exported. We import 80 per cent of our machinery, 70 per cent of our transport equipment, 80 per cent of our scientific equipment, 80 per cent of our health equipment, and almost all our mining equipment. In the U.S. there are 19 technical