

Another item which has risen 12 times as much in 14 years is the interest on the public debt. It represents 14 years of mismanagement, which has created a situation where 12 times as much money today is required to pay the interest on the public debt. As well, a good portion of that money leaves Canada. This means that it is not available for unemployment insurance, hospital beds or pensioners. That money simply pays the bankers' interest on the debt which this government has incurred over 14 years, with the encouragement and even the blackmail of the New Democratic Party, going back to the mid-1970s.

We have a tragic economic situation today. This dilemma was predictable. We stand here today knowing that last year we spent \$4.8 billion in unemployment insurance benefits. That is a lot of money; close to \$5,000 million. Last year we also spent twice as much as that amount on importing one commodity, that is oil. Today we are buying oil from Saudi Arabia, Mexico and other countries at \$35 and \$45 a barrel, which amounts to some \$10,000 million annually. In the meantime, oil sits in the ground in western Canada because we have a government that developed a policy which favours the importation of oil. We have a government which has developed a policy indicating that Canadian oil should be left in the ground, Canadian jobs should be lost and unemployment rolls shall grow. That is the rhythm of the energy policy to which this nation has been subjected since the "Liberal Party West" chose to throw out a sensible government. The NDP, the "Liberal Party West" threw out a sensible government and returned a government—

● (1540)

**Some hon. Members:** The people!

**Mr. Hawkes:** —whose record has been, is today and will be tomorrow a tragedy for Canadians, and then it had the gall to stand in the House and say, "We care. We would like to get rid of unemployment. Let us throw more money at the problem."

**An hon. Member:** The people put you out!

**Mr. Hawkes:** But do the hon. members ever say how the government is to raise the money? Do they feel very good about the borrowing pattern over the last 14 years, with the result that today 23 cents out of every federal tax dollar goes to pay the interest on the debt? When one pays taxes, the government is left with 77 cents out of every dollar one gives. The rest goes to the bankers. The taxes go up, but the payment of interest goes up even faster. We have less money today. The NDP solution is to tax business. Where do the unemployed come from? Where did the unemployed come from, if it were not businesses which had to lay people off and then went bankrupt? Where did the unemployed come from, if it was not a factor that—

*Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 (No. 2)*

**Mr. Deans:** How about young people who cannot get into the work force?

**Mr. Hawkes:** —the costs went up so high that they could not sell the things they produced?

**Mr. Deans:** How about the young people who cannot get into the work force?

**Mr. Hawkes:** The young people cannot get into the work force because the factories are closed.

**Mr. Deans:** Because they are poorly managed.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Support the labour union leadership, not the membership. The leadership wants 30 per cent raises. In Medicine Hat, just in the last two weeks, there was a union like that, a leadership like that, which represented 175 people and it wanted 30 per cent raises. All right, that is what they got, but the business was closed and not one of those 175 people is working. They just had an auction, sold off the equipment and there are no more jobs for those 175 people. Did we really ask those 175 people if that is what they wanted? Or were they the captives of a leadership element which was paid so well it was out of touch with the grass roots and did not understand that the grass roots person in this country, in Canada today, is a person who cares, who wants a job, who wants a chance to be promoted, who wants a life which allows him to own a home and to have a decent standard of medical care? That is what the grass roots of this country want and we have a leadership which has gone berserk at the urging of people who have no common sense at all. To be spending \$10 billion a day, paying four nations, importing oil when the oil is sitting in the ground in Canada, is not common sense.

**Mr. Deans:** Right!

**Mr. Hawkes:** It is not common sense to tax a business or an individual to the point where he cannot compete in the marketplace, where the things he produces cannot be sold. It is insanity. It is not common sense.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** You want to tax the consumer!

**Mr. Hawkes:** It is not common sense. The prescription or the trail that we have been on for the last 14 years, is a disastrous trail. I think people can understand it. Today it is possible for people in the gallery and people watching television to go out and get many credit cards or to go out and borrow a lot of money. But they must surely know that if they borrow so much money that their entire paycheque goes to pay the interest on the money they have borrowed, they will have nothing left for food. That is the growing achievement of this government, aided, abetted and supported by the New Democratic Party. It is a prescription for borrowing today to pay back tomorrow.

I remind people that today we spend 12 times as much paying the interest on debt as we did on the day that the Prime Minister took office. In 14 years, we have increased our need to pay interest by 1,200 per cent. There has been a 1,200 per