

S.O. 31

Mr. Andre: It was because of that program. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) got jobs for half of those people in his office.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: That's right. Only half as many in your office now.

Mr. Andre: It took a quarter of that many to fly him around. There were pictures on television every day in western Canada. Admittedly people here in the east remained blissfully ignorant of drilling rigs lined up for miles at and above the border heading south. The Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry laughs. That is why the Liberal Party did so well in western Canada in the last election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: That is why the Liberals did so well because of the attitude of the Member for Winnipeg Fort Garry.

Mr. Axworthy: I just appreciate a good clown.

Mr. Andre: What happens when you lose \$20 billion of capital in a short period of time? Your dollar plunges, interest rates shoot up, they were high generally but Canada's were five to six points higher than in the United States. That supposedly great national Liberal Government imposed an extra \$20 billion of taxes on one region, and the predictable happened—property values sank and businesses went bankrupt. The economic carnage was tragic to everyone with any sense of concern for their fellow Canadians.

● (2130)

Mr. Axworthy: Is that what happened with your companies?

Mr. Andre: It happened to the companies with which your Leader was involved; I read that in the paper.

Mr. Axworthy: What about yours?

Mr. Andre: Not mine.

Mr. Axworthy: What about the ones which went bankrupt?

Mr. Andre: The Hon. Member does not have to seek advice across the aisle on bankrupt companies; he should ask his Leader who was the chairman—

Mr. Axworthy: You were under investigation.

Mr. Andre: I was not the chairman of any bankrupt companies as was your Leader.

Mr. Axworthy: Tell us about the investigations you were under.

Mr. Andre: Ask your brother.

Mr. Axworthy: I am asking you; it is your companies.

Mr. Andre: You will have a chance to speak.

Mr. Axworthy: Yes.

Mr. Andre: When that kind of massive damage is done by a federal Government, the inevitable happens. In Alberta or in western Canada we did not suffer a recession; it was a depression. Thousands of young families had to abandon their homes because they lost their jobs. The companies could not carry them. Interest rates were exorbitant. I should like to refer to the list of projects which were actively under way and were cancelled as a result of the NEP—the Syncrude expansion, the Cold Lake project, the Alsands project, the Petro-Canada/Nova oilsands project, the Saskatchewan heavy tertiary project and Judy Creek light tertiary project. As a result, tens of thousands of important high-tech jobs were wiped out. People without jobs cannot pay their mortgages. People without jobs do not buy, and businesses go bankrupt. That is what happened as a result of the National Energy Program. That was the carnage as a result of the Liberal Government. Any bank with a primary market in that area was bound to feel the consequences. That is what happened.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: Any responsible Member of Parliament will acknowledge that. I do not put members of the Liberal Party and the NDP into the category of responsible Members of Parliament.

Mr. Riis: You are a Minister now; you are above that.

Mr. Andre: Many of my friends were forced into bankruptcy, were forced out of Alberta and were forced into foreign countries. I doubt whether we could find a resident of Alberta who does not have a friend, acquaintance or family member that was not personally or financially devastated by the National Energy Program and the policies of the Liberal Government supported by the NDP. The fact that in the last year, because of the Western Accord and a change in attitude, I am happy to report to the House—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: I hope opposition Members will applaud the fact that things have changed and are changing. In fact, growth—

Mr. Waddell: What about the banks?

Mr. Axworthy: Tell us about the banks.

Mr. Andre: Members of the Liberal Party and the NDP find good news about the western economy to be atrocious. They become excited and upset when I tell them that things are looking up since the Western Accord.

Mr. Althouse: Why don't the banks believe that?