

Petroleum and Gas

part of the Mexico works program. We are creating employment in other countries. We trade, and naturally we will trade with other countries, I can appreciate that. We have to. However, I do not understand for one moment why, in a country which has a resource, we know the potential is there and the volumes are there, we cannot put in place the infrastructure to feed Canada first from our own feedstocks. But not this Government. It prefers to go to some other country. It prefers to take tax money out of all of our people and send that money off to other countries. It prefers to help build up employment in other countries at the expense of its own because there is some unfortunate mythical east-west fight where the Government could not stand to see the oil industry thrive in western Canada. It could not stand success. It thought somehow if it killed the oil industry, if it nationalized it, somehow it was going to be good for central Canada. The fact is, Sir, that one oil company which used between 500 and 600 half-ton trucks every year bought zero a year ago. Does that not have an impact on Ontario, the automotive centre? Does that not have an impact on Sudbury which mines iron? All of a sudden industries basically collapse and fold. The oil industry was the only successful engine in the whole of the country at the time when this Government brought in the National Energy Program, and that hurt every province, not just western Canada.

● (1750)

I want to speak for a moment about those rigs which moved out of Canada, not only to make the claim that they were Canadian, which they were; not only to say the service industry was Canadian, which it was; but also because I think many people who read *Hansard*, listen to us on TV, and even Members on the other side, do not really know what we are talking about when we say a "rig". I think they conjure up in their mind this derrick standing there and a few people standing around it.

About 16 trucks are required to move a rig, Mr. Speaker. It is not just the rig; it is the compressors and a whole battery of equipment which go with it. To move a rig from Alberta to Texas costs some \$500,000. What happened in Canada? In 1980 there were 324 rigs drilling. In 1983 there were 51. The Government killed the industry.

There was all this talk of self-sufficiency but what did the Government do? It created PetroCan. Do you know what Government Members cannot do, Mr. Speaker? They cannot hold up one quart, cup or even teaspoon of oil that that company ever found. It has not found any oil. All it managed to do was build twin office towers in Calgary, take over other companies to run them as they had been run previously, but it has not found a single drop of oil. The Government has not enhanced the oil industry in this country, it has not made us more self-sufficient. What it did was destroy our economic base. That program alone cannot be blamed for unemployment in this country, but it certainly can be blamed for a large measure of unemployment. It had a very significant impact.

Had the two tar sands projects gone ahead, Mr. Speaker, as originally intended prior to the re-election of this Government in 1980, the impact on Ontario alone was some \$800 million for metal fabrication, \$370 million for transportation equipment, \$325 million for manufacturing and processing, \$740 million for financing, and \$370 million for trade and services. The numbers go on and on. The Government tried to destroy not just the oil industry but it tried to destroy western power. This Government believed that somehow there was just too much power out west.

The truth is that we were Canadianizing the oil industry faster before the NEP than we are after. The service industry was Canadian and it has been driven out. The rigs were Canadian and they have been largely driven away. We did not cause the multinationals to go into bankruptcy, just Canadian companies. I dare the Liberals to go into Nisku and give a speech on oil. I dare Liberals to go into Brooks, Alberta and try and defend the NEP. They would come out of the riding on a long pole because the people are bitter and angry. I dare them to go into Coronation, Alberta and defend the NEP. The Liberals hurt those people, put them out of work and made it so that they could not buy the manufactured products of central Canada.

I do not know why they are afraid of a regional person making money because every time that happens he does exactly what you do, Mr. Speaker; he spends it. If he buys a refrigerator and it is Canadian, it is made in central Canada. If he buys carpeting and it is Canadian, it is made in central Canada. If he buys an automobile and it is Canadian, it is made in central Canada. If he buys a toaster and it is Canadian, it is made in central Canada. If you make Prince Edward Island wealthy, you make central Canada that much more wealthy. If you make western Canada wealthy, you make central Canada that much more wealthy. Surely we must come to the point where we quit fighting one with the other and realize that this great country is interdependent; as one gets better, we all get better. We do not need to kill an industry somewhere in the name of preserving power elsewhere. The then Minister of Energy, now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), said that we needed the NEP because otherwise Alberta would get rich beyond your wildest imagination. He said that in a speech from the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. That should not be the fear because we are all Canadians and we ought to benefit together.

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Hon. Member's message is to leave the impression that policies are created in order to pit one region against another. That is a most unfortunate suggestion. One of the things that concerns me about the specifics, although within the context I think it is most shameful to undertake to pit one region against another in that way, is that the Hon. Member has been very selective in his information and his memory. He has not brought to our attention the comparable problem faced by the oil and gas industry in the United States. His selectivity of statistics brings us information about the problems of oil rigs in Canada and that they moved to the States, but how much does he tell