

1985 he will be leaving us. He will be leaving us because the Prime Minister will hang him out to dry when he brings down the next Budget. That is what will happen to the Minister of Finance.

Finally, let us talk about one issue which is of great concern to me—regional economic development. When the Government gave \$1.3 billion to the multinational oil companies, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion refused to provide one cent for Domtar in the Province of Quebec. Shame on him. That Minister took \$200 million out of the ERDA program. What did he do, after the Prime Minister assured me in Question Period that serious consideration would be given to new economic proposals in Cape Breton Island, which has the highest unemployment rate in the country? What did the Prime Minister and that Minister do? They set up a task force. It is a complete repudiation, a complete denunciation of the provincial Premier and the MLAs who live in that part of Canada. It is a complete denial of the suggestions which have been put on previous occasions.

I suggest that this Government, based on its performance to date, has failed to provide the jobs which it promised. It has failed, by the recent energy agreements, to provide consumers and small business with the tax relief which they ought to have. It has provided only one thing. It has provided untold millions of dollars for the multinational oil companies. I say shame on the Government. It will certainly pay the price in the next federal election.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, it was most enjoyable to sit here and listen to Allan MacEachen's clone. Certainly he reminds me of the Hon. Senator in his style, his tone of voice and the reasoning which he presents. We all heard it in 1981 when the then Minister of Finance presented his Budget.

Can the Hon. Member tell the House and Canadians why the energy industry should be treated and taxed differently from all the other industries in Canada, such as his Government did under the National Energy Program? Can he explain that to the Canadian people?

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, it is always nice to receive a question from a former Minister of the Clark Government.

Mr. McDermid: I just got promoted!

Mr. Dingwall: I am happy that he has taken this occasion to ask a question with respect to energy. Perhaps he knows nothing about energy. That might be the reason he has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, in keeping with the Prime Minister's guidelines.

He asked about the tax benefits which are being bestowed upon multinational oil companies and why they should be taxed differently. If one believes, as we do on this side, that Canadianization is a goal to which all Canadians subscribe, then I think it would be in the best interests of Canada—unlike the Hon. Member—to provide an incentive for the small companies in western Canada which want to make a meaningful contribution to that sector of our economy. The

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Government should provide an incentive for the small companies in western Canada so that they can hire the individuals which we want them to hire and get Canadians off the unemployment rolls. But the Conservative Government is bent on bending over backwards to multinational oil companies to ensure that they are looked after handsomely. I would suggest to the Hon. Member that the consumers and the small-business sector of the country deserve an incentive as well. They too deserve a tax holiday, not just the multinational oil companies.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member's Leader was in the private sector, he participated in a newsletter which was written by his law firm. As an author of that newsletter, he was roundly and severely critical of the National Energy Program. He accurately pointed out that it would cost Canada billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

In addition, when the Leader of the Liberal Party was running for the leadership, he made a number of speeches before Liberal delegates across Canada in which he roundly condemned the National Energy Program as an example of the historical Liberal programs and policies which have caused great damage to the country. That was something he was going to change when he became Leader. We find that he hasn't changed a thing. In fact, apparently he has been changed. I wonder if the Hon. Member can tell the House whether he agrees with what his Leader is saying today or what his Leader said when he was running for the leadership of the Party and was still in the private sector? Does the Hon. Member concur with those views that the National Energy Program has been an absolute disaster for Canada. If he does, would he not agree that undoing the National Energy Program, which was the effect of the Accord last week, should in fact restore some of the vigour and health which was previously there in a sector which provided so many jobs for so many Canadians from coast to coast?

● (1600)

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, it is so nice to receive questions from Ministers of the Crown, particularly the minister of paper clips, pens and notebooks. I want to say to him that I take serious objection to some of the things he as well as some other Hon. Members of Parliament on the Tory side, have tried to promote in this House. I would point out that the distinguished Leader of the Liberal Party, the next Prime Minister of Canada, did not sign such a document.

However, I want to say to the Hon. Member who is responsible for paper clips and pens that he ought to be careful. Who said in 1981, what premier of this country, that the oil bonanza was not going to last and we as Canadians ought not to expect that it will continue as it was in late 1981? What Premier said that? The "premier ministre" of Alberta, Mr. Lougheed. Of course, the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Andre) does not like to hear that. He does not like to hear that even some of his colleagues in western Canada who consummated agreements with the Government of Canada did