

The Address—Mr. McKenzie

assisting businesses in moving out of Manitoba when the NDP was in power there. The loss was staggering. The amount of money leaving and the number of jobs lost were staggering.

● (1740)

Manitoba has the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada. Exploration spending in the mining and the oil industries has almost doubled. Mining exploration under the NDP in Manitoba came almost to a grinding halt with the minister they had in charge of northern development and mining.

Leadership has been shown in Manitoba. Hydro rates have been frozen for a period of five years in order to assist the people of Manitoba. Since July, 1979, Manitobans have enjoyed the third highest minimum wage in Canada. The eight years the NDP were in power in Manitoba were disastrous for us. It was a very costly experiment. We saw the NDP in the Chinese food business. I like Chinese food, but I certainly do not want to buy it from any NDP government. That went bankrupt. Then they got into the aeroplane manufacturing business. The last thing in the world a provincial government should get itself involved in is manufacturing aeroplanes. Another \$40 million to \$50 million was lost by the people of Manitoba. On and on it goes.

I want to get back to health care for a moment. Not all members of the NDP are irresponsible. I have here a statement by a former NDP leader, Mr. Tommy Douglas. He was referring to the Hall report back in the 1960s. He said it was one of the finest reports ever written on the subject. He credited Mr. Diefenbaker and his Conservative government with laying the foundation stone for medicare. I think Mr. Douglas should be given credit for recognizing that fact. I do not expect that he would be going around the country making such irresponsible statements as those made by his NDP colleagues. According to them, our party is against medicare, hospitals, senior citizens, and all that irresponsible nonsense.

I do not know what kind of constructive criticism we will be receiving from the Liberal party, now that it is in opposition. Liberals seem constantly to be squabbling about leadership. There are many newspaper articles being released by the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). He came here in 1972, the same time I did. He writes letters stating that he wants his leader replaced, or that he has some other complaint about his party. I have never heard him say anything good about his party. I do not know why he wants to stay in the Liberal party when he has so many complaints about the way its members conduct themselves. He is concerned about Liberal caucus members who have been given specific responsibilities. The hon. member for Vaudreuil complains that his colleagues are making public policy statements without any discussion in caucus. The Liberal party is very disjointed. There are articles: "Trudeau under attack", "Disgruntled Liberals urge end to former PM's reign". They are certainly having their problems over there.

I would like to speak briefly about Petro-Canada. I do not know what everybody is getting all excited about. Petro-Canada has certainly become a very emotional issue. The

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Hnatyshyn) has stated that we are going to be keeping many parts of Petro-Canada. He has stated that the negotiation of state to state contracts for the importation of crude oil, where necessary, will be looked after by us. He has stated that there will be promotion of exploration in frontier areas with increased Canadian participation and at a pace which cannot be expected of the private sector alone. We will work with them.

I was in Calgary recently at a Canada-U.S. parliamentary meeting. We met with Petro-Canada officials there. They showed us films of some of their developments which are being undertaken in conjunction with the private sector. We have no objection to that at all. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has stated that promotion, along with frontier exploration, of tar sands and heavy oils research and development will be done by Petro-Canada. I do not know what the Liberal energy critic is getting so excited about. Those are things he is concerned about, and we are not going to abandon them.

The energy critic pointed out that there are 700 oil companies in Canada. I do not know how many oil companies we need, but that seems to be an awful number of oil companies; plus we have Petro-Canada. I am sure the task force, when it turns in its report later on this month, will be making its recommendations. Whether we implement them or not I cannot say right now, and neither can the government. We have to wait until the task force files its report.

I would like to give hon. members an idea of the size of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Perhaps there are a number of branches of that department in existence which could perform the same functions Petro-Canada performs. There are over 300 branches, divisions and agencies employing some 4,000 people. Just look at the government telephone directory—11 pages! What are they all doing? Perhaps they could be performing many of the functions of Petro-Canada. I think we must look carefully at duplication. We are taking a responsible position. There is nothing wrong with reviewing a federal government department or agency. There are 400 others which we have to review to find out what they are doing. They will have to justify their existence.

We are acting in a responsible manner in reviewing all these various government departments. We are not just going to close our eyes and let them operate on their own. We do not know whether they are operating efficiently, or whether they are required, or anything else. We have a responsibility to Canadian taxpayers to find out if all these 400 Crown corporations and the hundreds of divisions and branches in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are required. We are taking a responsible position. Because we do that we will be criticized. We should be praised for checking to see if taxpayers' money is being spent properly. I do not see anything wrong with doing that, but that is the kind of thing that we get from the Liberals and the NDP.

The Conservative party was interested in energy long before the Liberal party even thought of it. I remember when the roads to resources program was introduced in the fifties by the