ENERGY

CALL FOR RENEWAL OF TALKS TO RESOLVE NEWFOUNDLAND OFFSHORE DISPUTE

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity once again to call for a renewal of talks on resolving the offshore dispute between Ottawa and the Province of Newfoundland-Labrador.

You, and Members of this House should know, Mr. Speaker, that Premier Peckford just yesterday here in Ottawa failed to have the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) put in writing the Conservative Party's position on the offshore. As in all other matters of policy, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives either have no policy or refuse to state what it is. The Conservative Party has a responsibility to clarify the dramatic difference in the policy of their Party on the offshore as stated by their Leader, which is that they have no position, and the policy as stated by the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), which is that they intend to kow-tow to Mr. Peckford. It is obvious these people cannot make up their minds.

I say once again that Premier Peckford has a responsibility to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, in particular the unemployed in that Province, to quit his confrontation politics and get back to the bargaining table as soon as possible.

FINANCE

USE OF REVENUE GENERATED BY CANADIAN OWNERSHIP TAX

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Ownership Tax was created to pay for the purchase of Petrofina. Petrofina is now paid for, yet Canadians continue to pay that tax every time they buy gas. It is ironic that the Liberals, the Party elected on the promise of cheaper gas prices, keeps the prices unnecessarily high with a tax which has fulfilled its designated purpose.

• (1410)

What will the Government do with the money it collects from this tax? It will give it to Dome Petroleum, in addition to the \$875 million Dome has already received through the PIP grants. What does this do for small business and home owners like those in the Mission-Port Moody area? It watches them fall by the wayside, Mr. Speaker. Those who survive see their tax dollars go out as grants to huge corporations and filter their way through to the chartered banks. It is hard enough to compete today without being taxed to death and then see your tax dollars go to your competitors as grants.

The evidence is overwhelming, Mr. Speaker. The Liberals are the Party of big business and, along with the chartered banks, are the persecutors of small business and the average working man.

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EMPLOYMENT

SPECIAL RECOVERY PROJECT IN MISSISSAUGA, ONT.

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in the light of current controversy I must remind the House that Liberal Members of Parliament are the people taking a genuine interest in the problems facing unemployed people. We are the ones who put our energy into solving these problems.

I would like to give you two direct examples, from my own experience, of the lack of interest shown by the Tories. There is a special recovery project in Mississauga South for over \$2.5 million. The federal Government is creating badly needed construction and tourism jobs by building a new marina on the Lakeshore. On at least two widely publicized occasions I have personally been involved in supporting and working on this project. The Tory MP has never been seen or heard from, and probably does not know or care about the benefits being provided for Mississauga.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, I had a chance, over a year ago, to work with the Victorian Order of Nurses on a home nursing project. In this case the project was too big to be funded by one riding, and the nurses asked for co-sponsorship with the Tory MP from York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). The answer was a resounding no. He did not care about either the jobs or the sick people.

Do not let the current debate mislead you, Mr. Speaker. Tory MPs know what is happening because they can see the need and the activity by the Government. They just do not care.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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NATIONAL PARKS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NORTHERN PARKS

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Minister of the Environment has issued his election command to the Parks Canada people. He wants them to crank out three national parks in northern Canada before the next federal election. This means they have less than a year to fulfil satisfactorily the criteria set out by Parks Canada policy regarding the creation of national parks.

There are three essential stages to be completed. The first is identification and selection of potential national parks. The second is consultation, feasibility studies, and negotiations. The last step is the legislative process for the establishment of a national park.

Yet there have not been any public hearings "to determine the degree of interest, opposition and support for the new park proposal" or "to ensure all necessary information on competing resource use interests is collected, to aid in decision making..." among other concerns.