

Supply

The way in which these serious downfalls in the industry translate is perhaps best expressed in personal terms. We know that in Alberta there are over 100,000 people who are unemployed, and the numbers grow by the thousands every month. The exhaustees, those people who will be running out of unemployment insurance benefits, are increasing at the rate of 5,000 per month, and the crunch has not yet occurred. It will not occur until spring, at which time these people will no longer have any form of support. This is, of course, at a time at which the Government has before it the report of the Forget Commission which presents Draconian measures to reduce unemployment benefits even further.

There are over 147,000 people on social assistance in the Province of Alberta. That figure increased at a rate of over 12,000 families in the last year and grows by 600 families a month. By any of these indicators it is very clear that in this one province alone we are facing a kind of drastic and terrible erosion of a once vibrant economy. The question is: What is being done? The answer is: Virtually nothing at all.

That same type of tragedy is being reflected in other sectors of the western economy. At the recent Outlook Conference which took place last week in Ottawa the Government's own economists indicated that the fall in farm income in the Province of Alberta will be 60 per cent. In the Province of Manitoba it will be over 50 per cent, and over 40 per cent in the Province of Saskatchewan. While the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) was making his \$1 billion statement the fact of the matter is that that money will only begin to make up a small percentage of the drastic loss in family income that the Government's own economists were projecting back into 1987.

In the area of industrial development and diversification we again know what the facts are. The decision by the Government to go against the clear recommendation based upon the criteria of supply and service on the CF-18 contract took away from western Canada a major opportunity for development of high technology. That incident has caused much anger and indignation right across the West. The results of recent polls show that the people of British Columbia and Alberta share just as deeply the anger and frustration against the federal Government as do the people of Manitoba. A recent report released by DRIE shows that when it comes to providing industrial assistance the Province of Saskatchewan receives \$18 million. Assistance to Alberta last year was \$16 million. The Province of Manitoba received \$30 million. The Province of Quebec received \$430 million and the Province of Ontario received \$267 million.

● (1640)

The fact of the matter is that westerners are beginning to feel bereft of support by the Government. They feel betrayed by the Government. It is interesting that even members of the Government's own Party are saying this. The Government of Alberta, never known to shy away from supporting its brethren, is now making a variety of statements in the press which indicate that it feels betrayed.

The Prime Minister went to Calgary and said: "Yes, we will help you with the Syncrude plant". A week later, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) said: "I don't think we will help you at all, I have to reconsider it". This led to an angry chorus heard throughout the Province of Alberta and the other oil and gas-producing provinces about a Government that says one thing one day and something very different the next.

What has been the response of the Government? The response can only be described in one word: deception. Rather than responding to those cries for help, the Government is engaging in public relations puffery and, with audacity beyond belief, is trying to incorporate in its accomplishments in western Canada a whole series of initiatives undertaken by the previous Government.

I refer you, Mr. Speaker, to the *Calgary Herald* issues of December 5 and December 6. The newspaper indicates that a statement was made by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) defending the Conservative record in the West. It makes interesting reading because a great many of the accomplishments listed were initiatives undertaken by the previous Government. Regarding my own province, the Deputy Prime Minister said that his Government is participating in the Winnipeg Core Area agreement. That was initiated in 1981. We got that whole thing started. The newspaper talks about the transportation agreement. We initiated and continued that agreement. Then the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) showed up in Winnipeg on Friday and called a big press conference with coffee, tea, danish, bran muffins and the whole works to announce a transportation agreement that we had signed back in 1983. He said that he would do wonderful things and that he would set up a transport institute. That was announced in 1983. He said that he would help with Churchill. That was announced and carried out in 1983. Every single statement of the Minister of Transport was based upon legal, binding agreements signed and sealed by the previous federal Government.

Anyone who has read the *Calgary Herald* over the years knows that its sympathy lies generally with the Conservative Party. What does the *Calgary Herald* say in its editorial comment of December 6? It says:

Nevertheless, Mazankowski misleads in many ways with his rosy version of the Tory western record—

Mazankowski misleads by claiming credit for Liberal programs such as the decision to put up \$200 million for the 1988 Winter Olympics—

He misleads by suggesting, without proof, that jobs created in western Canada stemmed directly from federal policies. Would he admit unemployment in western Canada is solely the fault of the federal Government?

The editorial concludes by saying:

Despite Mazankowski's lengthy written submission—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Even though I understand the Hon. Member is reading a document, could I ask him to refer to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) by his title of Deputy Prime Minister?