

This is an issue that has concerned Albertans and British Columbians for many years. When one considers the large numbers of rail cars that are available, particularly with the haul-back capacity on CN and CP lines from British Columbia and Alberta, one wonders why large volumes of coal are not coming from eastern British Columbia and southwestern Alberta to feed the electrical requirements of Ontario. One would have thought, with 20 Members from Alberta sitting on the government benches, that some efforts would have succeeded after two and a half years in Government in getting at least the occasional new carload of Alberta coal moving along those lines to provide good, clean electrical power to the Province of Ontario.

Even though we have seen occasional press releases and heard occasional murmurs from Alberta Members, including the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), nothing serious seems to be in the works. In fact, the Government seems to have buried the issue again. It is another example of Members on the government benches being strangely silent on an issue that could provide thousands of new jobs and new infrastructure in Alberta.

Other Members have raised the question with regard to the Husky upgrader at Lloydminster, which is a promise by the Tories that was heralded throughout Alberta during the election campaign but has not been fulfilled. The estimates are that some 5,000 Albertans could obtain employment in the development of that heavy oil upgrader at Lloydminster. Once again, government Members are strangely silent and incapable of making the Cabinet understand the importance of providing development initiatives in the West, particularly in Alberta.

Over the years the Government of Alberta invested a great deal of money in the Heritage Fund. However, those funds are tied up in loans to other provinces and therefore not easily tapped by the Government of Alberta in order to provide the required revenues to put people back to work. When the province was awash in oil money during the 1970s and early 1980s, one would have thought that a Government with some vision would have provided for a means of putting those funds into development activities.

As I stated at the outset of my remarks, tourism held one of the greatest potentials for Alberta. Considering the hundreds of thousands of tourists who come from the United States, Japan and elsewhere, perhaps greater initiative could have been taken with the Heritage Fund moneys to develop the kinds of facilities that would have attracted tourists to stay in Alberta longer, and to develop additional sectors within the Alberta economy in anticipation of the cyclical ups and downs that we all recognize occur in the energy sector.

No one expected such a prolonged downturn at this time, and certainly the diversification of the Alberta economy should have taken place during the good years so that these lean years would not have been so harmful as to force 600 additional families every month onto welfare in Alberta.

Supply

I am pleased to speak up for Albertans and let them know that there are Members in the House who are prepared to speak up on their issues and try to find solutions.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Drummond (Mr. Guilbault)—Agriculture—Marketing of incubated eggs—Government position; the Hon. Member for Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins)—Canadian National Railways—(a) Future of railway lines in Ontario and Quebec. (b) Reported abandonment of effort to attract new traffic; the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse)—Farm Credit Corporation—(a) Ending of moratorium on farm foreclosures. (b) Request that Government establish land bank rental system.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—ALBERTA ECONOMY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Waddell:

That this House expresses its disappointment with the Government for its failure to deal effectively with the severe economic recession in Alberta which has resulted in, among other things:

- (1) Alberta having the worst performance of any provincial economy in Canada which the Conference Board of Canada has estimated will shrink in over-all terms for the second consecutive year;
- (2) a loss of 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the oil and gas industry;
- (3) leaving Alberta farmers with 23 per cent of Canada's outstanding farm debt;
- (4) causing on average 600 new families per month to be placed on welfare; and
- (5) Alberta having the highest per capita suicide rate in Canada.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, this is a long, dark day for the New Democratic Party. They began the debate with a resolution essentially based on innuendo, and have been continuing throughout the day on the same theme.

For a "peregrinious" person such as the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) to raise the resolution