

Adjournment Debate

industry in western Canada. This must stop, Mr. Speaker. We must stop this blatant political patronage. We must stop this lunatic destruction. I can tell you, sir, I am convinced that this will only stop when this Liberal government is turfed out. Then we can get some sanity and order back in the country again.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2225)

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I join with my hon. colleague for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) in extending best wishes to you on being elevated to the Chair. I am as certain as he that you will do a very admirable job.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) made it very clear that such assistance to developing countries was not detracting in any way from the extensive and increasing support being given Canada's own oil industry through recently passed legislation and long-standing commitments. I need not remind the hon. member that just recently the Government of Canada provided, under the National Energy Program, in excess of \$2 billion toward the oil and gas industry. This, coupled with the \$5 billion provided by the Government of Alberta, makes a total of \$7 billion in terms of tax concessions to the oil and gas industry which, I might add, is primarily located in western Canada.

In reference to the question raised by the hon. member with respect to money or assistance which is being provided to developing countries, I should say to him and his party that the economies of many developing countries are being seriously affected by the price they must pay for imported oil. Non-oil developing countries as a group have had current account deficits every year since the Arab oil embargo of 1973, and the

group deficit has grown from \$11 billion in that year to \$68 billion in 1980. This, of course, has much reduced their ability to use scarce foreign exchange to purchase other goods needed for economic development. Numerous international meetings and reports in recent years have recognized the threat which rising energy import bills pose for economic development and for the success of development assistance programs, including Canada's.

In 1980, the World Bank reported that "the sharp rise in the cost of energy in recent years has underlined the urgent need to expand domestic energy production in developing countries that are dependent on imports."

Ironically, developing countries have known oil and gas resources, or promising possibilities for discovery. Typically, however, the countries involved, like the one referred to by the hon. member, lack both funds and expertise, and the multinational oil companies, which have both, have tended to concentrate their efforts in industrialized or established oil exporting countries. Recognizing this, the Government of Canada has established the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation to assist developing countries to reduce or eliminate their dependence on imported oil by using Canadian technology and expertise for oil and gas exploration and directly related activities.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 10.28 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.