

disruption of scientific activity which threatens the economic future as well as the health and safety of Canadians as a result of severe funding cuts to the National Research Council.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of a number of western Canadians who urge the Government to reconsider its plans to proceed with amendments to the Patent Act that will result in increased drug prices to Canadian citizens.

\* \* \*

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-28, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (torture).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

\* \* \*

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall all motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Supply

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement this day's sitting will be extended by 18 minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 82—STATE OF WESTERN ECONOMY

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Before putting the motion in the name of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), since today is the final allotted day the House will go through the usual procedures to consider and dispose of the supply Bill. In view of recent practices, do Hon. Members agree that the supply Bill be distributed now?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry)** moved:

That this House notes with deep concern the drastic decline in the oil and gas sector of western Canada, leading to over 25,000 unemployed workers and over 100,000 social welfare cases in Alberta alone; and the serious reduction in farm income and the lack of federal support for manufacturing industries in the western provinces; and

Therefore calls upon the Government to institute an immediate meeting of western provincial Governments, farmers, industries and labour to formulate an economic action plan designed to revive western resource, agricultural and manufacturing industries and to put western Canadians back to work.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say at the outset that due to the vagaries of the parliamentary process I deeply regret that this very important and essential debate will be shortened to less than an hour-and-a-half which, unfortunately, does not allow the full range of debate that is required to give proper expression to these concerns.

We bring this resolution forward to draw to the attention of the House and to the country the tragic and desperate circumstances being faced by western Canadians in a wide range of energy, agricultural and manufacturing sectors. From time to time newspaper reports may appear in the eastern press in this regard, but I do not think anyone fully understands the dimension of the personal tragedy being experienced by so many people, nor the terrible undermining of very fundamental and important industries to Canada.

I would like to begin by recounting to the House by way of example some indications of the depth of despair and the depth of economic tragedy that is beginning to occur. The Government of Alberta recently published a report put out by its Employment Department which indicates that by the end of 1986 over 25,000 workers in the oil and gas sector will be out of jobs. The oil association reports that by 1987 some 70 per cent of the oil-drilling rigs will be idle. The report goes on to indicate that a meagre 28 per cent of employment is forecast on the rigs, the lowest rate in 10 years. It is the worst slump in the development of exploration in the oil and gas industry experienced in the last decade.