

may not be quite five times, but may be it will go up from \$6 a thousand cubic feet to \$15 a thousand cubic feet. That is the short-sightedness of this program.

The other problem is that it is going to hurt the small Canadian companies, because they will not have enough money to go and explore for that more difficult type of gas, which costs more money. The big oil companies will be able to get back in there and get a greater share of the exploration.

As well, it has allowed Canadians the opportunity to get rid of the border price. That means that Canadians should not pay more for Canadian gas than Americans living in California who are heating their swimming pools in Palm Springs, or running their air-conditioning, who will be paying less for Canadian gas than Canadians in other parts of the country.

I draw your attention to the 1984 Conservative campaign handbook, at page 44, which states:

We will adopt market-sensitive pricing for exported natural gas, while ensuring that Canadians always pay less than their American neighbours—

They have gone back on another campaign promise. We are really seeing a problem in the sense that we are exporting like mad our gas and our oil at cheap prices and then we will find down the road that we will be short. It is a stupid person that sells out Canadian resources at bargain basement prices for a cheap buck and forgets about the future. That is short-sighted.

My House Leader made a reference to the committee. I wish to tell the committee members who passed a Bill, in my view in breach of a promise to conclude their meeting at a certain time, that they should understand how Stalinism works. The way Stalinism used to work was that Stalinists would lobby to get on a committee. They would get on the committee and then they would ask for a minority voice in the committee. They would get a minority voice, maybe two people out of a five member committee, and then they would ask for a majority. As soon as they got the majority they would close down the committee. That is Stalinism. They should have a look at what they did after making an agreement and then, as soon as the Opposition is gone, breaching the agreement and going through a Bill that we were going to pass anyway today or tomorrow. When you cannot trust the word of western Canadian MPs, you have really hit a new low. But I hope we can remedy that.

An Hon. Member: If you keep defeating NDPers.

Mr. Waddell: You will be gone next time, my friend. Take a look at Pembina.

I will conclude by saying that we will not oppose this Bill. The Bill is a bit of a desperation attempt to help an industry that is in trouble. It may be helping the wrong part of the industry. It does not help the small producers, and it does not make sure that the money that it gives to the industry is going to be spent for drilling and finding more oil. They may just take the money and run. I think that we need other proposals from this Government and I urge them to bring them forth. They should start with a stabilization plan for the small

Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act

producers and give them a decent price for their oil. Eastern consumers will buy that if it is a fair deal. If it looks fair to the East and to the West, they will buy it.

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, it is a particular honour for me as an Albertan to speak in support of Bill C-17, an Act to amend the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act and the Income Tax Act and to repeal the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act.

This legislation will mark the end of the petroleum and gas revenue tax, which was a discriminatory, unfair, front-end, well-head tax that did more to alienate western Canada than any other single measure since Confederation. Why was the petroleum industry singled out in Canada to bear an unjustifiable burden? I can tell you why, and Marc Lalonde has admitted it. The Liberal Government did not want to see the West gain strength and thereby achieve financial independence. He wanted westerners to be second-class citizens. That is unfair, unjust, and discriminatory.

I will sit down now, Sir, as I believe that you have a messenger, and I will continue later.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

[Translation]

And being returned:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend the Right Honourable the Deputy to Her Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, His Honour is pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

An Act to amend the Income Tax Act—Chapter 44, 1986.

● (1710)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PETROLEUM AND GAS REVENUE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hockin that Bill C-17, an Act to amend the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act and the Income Tax Act and to repeal