

for this. They have to add oil to make it oily. That is typical Liberal energy policy to get us trapped into a situation like this where they would sooner send \$50 down there for blocks of tar rather than give \$35 a barrel to Saskatchewan and Alberta.

I also want to point out there is oil in every province of Canada, and if these moneys were kept here, we could be doing exploration work; instead, all we are doing is closing down wells. There are about 1,400 wells that have closed down in Saskatchewan and they are actually losing about 40 cents a barrel, so pretty soon there will be no more oil produced in that province under this ridiculous National Energy Program which is supposed to make us self-sufficient. What an utter farce!

Now a spokesman for the Bank of Nova Scotia said that a colleague in Alberta commented on the usefulness of the small business development bond and said:

A lot of our customers would not be borrowing and expanding right now with interest rates as high as they are, if it were not for the bond.

In other words, the bond is helping to instil some growth in the economy, even in strong areas such as Alberta. However, it is not the total answer, and with the high interest rate policy it is becoming less and less effective. It can be imagined what the bond means to other regions such as Ontario and the maritimes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is high time this legislation was passed and it will help protect employees of those unfortunate companies which fail in their attempt to cope with the degenerating policies of the Liberal government. It will grant to wage earners priority over unsecured creditors for up to \$2,000 in unpaid wages per employee, plus an additional \$500 per employee in respect of amounts an employer is liable to pay as pension and other health and welfare contributions. It makes directors personally liable for unpaid wages and contributions but adds a defence of reasonable reliance on financial statements and other reports, and there is going to be a big line-up to get in on that, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to give you more statistics on what is happening to Canadian businesses under the so called Liberal policies. We were visited by representatives of 101 companies from Alberta and Saskatchewan two weeks ago. These are service companies supplying goods and services to the oil industry. They informed us that lay-offs in the industry in Alberta and Saskatchewan for the first quarter of 1981, since the NEP was introduced, totalled 2,040. They conducted a survey and claim that within six months, 40 per cent of these firms will be going bankrupt or just closing their doors, or moving to the United States, and they claim that 75 per cent will not be able to last one year. I cannot put the proper words to try and get the message across to the Liberals as to why on earth they are being so stubborn on this issue with this stupid, ridiculous program which is a tremendous burden on the backs of Canadian businessmen and is going to do absolutely nothing to make us self-sufficient.

These are disastrous figures. They claim that 75 per cent of these 101 firms will only be able to last another year. And there are further figures on how these policies are affecting

Bankruptcy

Canadians. The Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors claim there will be a grand total of 60,000 jobs lost by mid-summer due to the increasing number of oil and gas rigs leaving Canada. Stan Jones, executive director of the association, said:

—the 50 per cent decline in the number of rigs drilling for oil and gas during the past year has surpassed their worst predictions.

Jones blamed the federal government's National Energy Program and its failure to reach an oil pricing agreement with Alberta for creating the dramatic slump in the oil industry.

So I guess it is just as well we are debating a bill to streamline bankruptcy procedures and give some aid to the 60,000 employees to be laid off.

As to self-sufficiency, I cannot find anyone who agrees with the Liberal party that we are going to be self-sufficient by 1990. The industry has provided us with figures that Canada will be only 55 per cent self-sufficient in oil by 1990 and the cost of increased oil imports will be \$182 billion over the decade. That is going to the OPEC countries, to Mexico and Venezuela. Just imagine, if we were working to keep those billions here in Canada, we would not be talking about bankruptcies and lay-offs and driving businesses out of the country. That is an awful lot of money to be leaving a country the size of Canada.

I would like to say that I support passage of this bill but we all must keep in mind the fundamental reasons why such a bill has to be introduced in the first place. As I have outlined in this speech, the Liberals are the root of our problem. They have operated a blank cheque-spending policy throughout their stay in office and have failed to develop any over-all industrial economic strategy that would stimulate and maintain a healthy financial environment in Canada.

● (1620)

The Financial Post has done a lot of research into the Liberal national energy policy and its effects on Canadian industry. I would like to read into the record part of an article which appeared in the April 18, 1981 edition of *The Financial Post*. It reads:

Since a surplus of rigs in Canada is expected, demand for repairs, new rigs, equipment and supplies is far less urgent than in recent years. The oilfield manufacturing sector, which used a lull in new orders since last October to catch up on back orders, now faces an alarmingly bleak future.

Partial reprieve for some companies, mainly the bigger, better capitalized ones, is to move south with the Canadian oil explorers.

They just do not go down there for a short visit. If something happened here which would remove the National Energy Program, it does not mean that they will all come rushing back. It will not happen because it costs a lot of money to move the rigs. They will stay there as long as they want. They are made welcome down there, but they are certainly not made welcome in their own country.

The article continues:

Draco, for instance, the Edmonton-based company that builds rig masks and substructures, last year sold 55 per cent of its output to Canadian drilling companies for use in Canada. In 1981, only 25 per cent of its rigs will go to Canadian clients and even those are for use in the U.S. Draco was fortunate to