

not buying it the way they used to. As you know, Mr. Speaker, all these are primary resources and therefore British Columbia is in a sense facing a problem in a way no other province has to face. It is hardest hit because of the international scope of the economic problems we are facing. In that sense I would not lay the blame at the feet of this Government.

The crime, Mr. Speaker, perpetrated by this Government lies in the fact that it knew of the impending economic crisis, at least it should have known if its economic planners and specialists in the Department of Finance and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources were doing their job properly. They should have known we were going to face hard economic times. In spite of this, the Government persisted with policies which put ideology and slogans ahead of the needs of people. That, Mr. Speaker, is this Government's crime.

For example, we come again to the National Energy Program. We have experienced now the effects of that program. I recall the time three years ago in this Chamber when Members, particularly those representing Alberta constituencies, were rising in their place to question the then Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, now the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), on the National Energy Program and the distortions it was creating in the economy at the time. He gave a glib retort about the number of rigs still out there when all the Members representing Alberta knew those rigs were moving south. An ideological compulsion which the Minister had to force the industry into the mould he had created for it caused massive unemployment in Alberta. Day after day Members doing their job for their constituents would challenge the Government about its policies, but ideology was so important to that Minister that he brought in a man who believed in socializing and nationalizing that industry. He wanted to squeeze that industry into the mould he had shaped for it. Mass unemployment resulted.

I remember the delegations who came here representing the drilling operators, exploration companies, machinery dealers and small truck dealers. All of those delegations came here only to face a stone wall. Ideology was that important to this Government. I know there were Members on the Government side who were challenging the Minister in caucus meetings, but it was all to no avail.

A year ago I visited Fort St. John in northern British Columbia. It was a veritable ghost town. I saw a brand new hotel, I suspect it had 100 hundred rooms—with a large dining-room. It was a multimillion dollar establishment financed by CMHC and was boarded up because the rigs had moved out and the economy had been smashed. Down the main street, store after store was closed because there was no work to be had.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say the motion does not go to the extreme at all because the ideology was so important to these Ministers and this Government that they were willing to sacrifice an industry in order to propagate the ideology.

The slogan was "Canadianization", we want to Canadianize the oil industry. The cruel irony was that the industry they crushed was the Canadian industry, while the multinationals

The Address—Mr. Friesen

are surviving. They have cross-national investments to keep them going even if they cannot operate in Canada. But the truly Canadian companies, the small driller, the machinery driller, the explorer, those who are 100 per cent Canadian, they were going bankrupt all in the name of Canadianization. Then what does the Government do? It establishes a wholly Canadian-owned national oil company. Oh, yes? They go down to New York, to Wall Street, and borrow the money to finance PetroCan. Some Canadian company, Mr. Speaker! The ripple effect of that ideology spread all across Canada. It affected Ontario. My friend, the Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn), spoke earlier about the auto industry. The ripple effect of that program and what it did to the auto industry is a shame. It affected my riding. There is a plant in my riding called Gearmatic. Gearmatic is the premium company around the world in manufacturing hydraulic winches. That company was starting to feel the effects of the economy earlier because the lumber industry was shut down. Gearmatic had sold a lot of its inventory to the logging companies. Gearmatic was hurting and it had to lay off half of its work force. Then the National Energy Program came along. It so happens that Gearmatic is owned by a multinational, Paccar, in Bellevue, Washington. Paccar is going to survive because it deals around the world. When the National Energy Program came through, Gearmatic could no longer sell its product because the oil rigs were not in Canada any longer. Therefore they sell it wherever they are, and most of the sales are offshore.

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Last July, Gearmatic made an announcement that on December 31 they were shutting down the plant, which would leave another 110 families out of work. This is all because of the National Energy Program, which is an ideological obsession unrelated to the needs of working Canadians. As I said, Paccar will survive. Will those unemployed survive?

I have another example. PetroCan has a clause in its agreement with the Government that it can spawn any number of other Crown corporations. One that it has spawned is a company called Enercon. There happened to be a small company in southern British Columbia that was manufacturing insulation materials. It was a neat idea developed by an American. The problem was that the plant was too far from market, the cost was too high, the plant was not functioning well and therefore could not sell its product. Enercon bought about 35 per cent of that company. I would like to read to you a letter which I received from a gentleman who operates a company called National Cellulose, B.C. Limited in Surrey. The letter reads:

Pacific Enercon is a rock wool insulation manufacturer in Grand Forks, B. C. This company was started by an American businessman from California for a reported investment of \$7-\$10 million. After considerable problems of breaking into a declining market, the plant was in jeopardy of being closed down due to financial losses and an uncertain future. Canertech (division of Petro Canada) purchased forty per cent of the shares for a reported \$4 million to bail out an American, who was about to go bankrupt.

Now instead of the market sorting itself out as the weak drop out, we have a losing business proposition being artificially supported by the Canadian taxpayer. In addition to continuing to sell product below a profitable level, they have