

Supply

The Tories should consider carefully the consequences of this ideology getting in the way of common sense. It is something with which Canadians are becoming concerned with respect to the Tories.

As I said, we are concerned, as is the Member for Prince George-Peace River, about the serious nature of the resource industry crisis that is facing Canada right now. The crisis that Canada faces in terms of its economy is based on the fact that our whole economy since the Second World War has looked to Canadian prosperity on the basis of branch plant manufacturing on the one hand and the exploitation and export of resources on the other. The whole Liberal welfare scheme that we have come to depend on is based upon those two factors. When we are now in the situation in which branch plants have been closed down or are running at half capacity and our export resource industries are in trouble, we find that the Liberal Government and the Conservative Opposition are talking about cutbacks in basic standards of welfare. We have seen cutbacks in the established programs of financing and we have seen capping on pensions. We have heard talk about questioning the whole principle of universality for family allowance by the Liberal Government. A few years ago we saw the implementation of a block funding system for medicare that really caps the federal contribution there.

The fact is that our Canadian economy grew after the Second World War but did not really develop. It was something like a force-fed turkey that was fed until it grew large but it never really developed its own muscles so it could be an independent bird. It was just force-fed until it could be brought to someone's table and carved up. However, now we are in a situation where our branch plants are shut down. At the same time the best of our resources have been creamed and we are in a situation where other resources are harder to reach, harder to develop and we face increased competition from other areas of the world. At the present time and for the last several years, Canada has run deficits for manufactured goods of \$20 billion a year. This means we have to export more and more of our resources in raw and semi-processed states in order to keep our balance of payments in line. We have seen developments take place that often ride roughshod over the needs of aboriginal people.

● (1720)

I was interested to hear the House Leader for the Conservative Party, the Hon. Member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) saying that they should go ahead with the developments on the north slope without real regard for the land claims process under way. In our Party we recognize that Canadian prosperity depends now upon a proper development of our resources and a proper export policy for these resources. Canadian prosperity will depend on these for a long time. We cannot have Canadian prosperity by a sell-out of our resources. Perhaps the best example of a sell-out is the prebuilt pipeline that was pushed through by the Liberal Government and supported by the Conservatives a few years ago. This was the building of the prebuilt pipeline to export natural gas into the mid-west United States at a time when there were supposed to be

ironclad guarantees that once the lower part of the line had been built and once the gas was flowing into the United States the Americans would then finish the rest of the line so that Alaskan gas could flow through Canada. Any gas that was sold from Alberta would be replenished by Alaskan gas. There were supposed to be thousands of jobs for Canada. Where are those jobs now? Where are the spin-offs from this project? All we see is the export of our resources and a piece of paper that was supposed to be an ironclad guarantee. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) cannot give a date for the beginning of the pipeline and the Tories are strangely silent on this whole issue.

Another example where we see a neglect of our resources is in the area of fisheries. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Salmonid Enhancement Program that was originally designed to invest \$150 million in federal money over five years in phase one was stretched to include seven years so that money was stretched over a longer period of time instead of being spent when it was most needed. At the same time, when money should have been spent, some \$21 million was estimated to be needed to plan for phase two, only \$5 million of planning money was spent planning for phase two on the Salmonid Enhancement Program. Now we are in a kind of interim period. No one is sure what the long-range plans are for SEP. On the Pacific Coast, and I am sure the East Coast as well, we are all aware of the Government's failure to protect fish habitat. There is a continuing shrugging of shoulders in the Fisheries Department in the face of expanding log booming in our estuaries. There is a lack of any activity at all to protest the leaching of toxic chemicals and sewage into fish habitat. There is inadequate protection of spawning channels. We see the turning of a blind eye to steep slope logging that destroys streams. But perhaps the prime example with which we are concerned today in terms of the federal Government's neglect of Canada's resources is in the forest industry. As speaker after speaker has pointed out, it is Canada's number one industry.

The attitude of waste and prodigality that we have adopted with respect to this resource in the past is something that we are beginning to pay for now. I can remember as a child, when we moved to our farm on Vancouver Island, walking through the bush and finding log after log that had been cut 10 or 15 years previously. These were logs that were three feet through and 40 feet long. They were just left because they did not meet the exacting demands of the mills at that time. They had some kind of a pitch seam in them, and so they were left to rot or to be cut up by farmers for firewood. If we had those logs today, they would be number one prime. We wasted this resource because it was cheap and we thought it was inexhaustible. We treated it with contempt.

As Canadians we are very much aware of our northern tree line, a line that stretches roughly diagonally from the Yukon into southeastern Canada. North of this line we know that climatic conditions prohibit the growth of trees. Perhaps we should also be aware of a second tree line in southern Canada. Here we find that wasteful logging practices, growing urbani-