

*The Budget—Mr. Waddell*

not going to rise in American markets. The only realistic future gas price increases will be the tax of 30 cents per 1,000 cubic feet which the federal government has now put on. British Columbia will lose \$35 million in export revenues because the 30 cents per thousand cubic feet would have gone to B.C.

In British Columbia natural gas is subsidized. Yes, it is available at a low price and I do not apologize for that. The low prices should help the very people which this budget is not helping. What does this government do? It simply taxes the gas making the price higher. I have to go back to Vancouver and tell that family on Renfrew Street that social services will likely be cut in British Columbia as a result, that their gas bills will increase and that the government is not giving them a cost of living tax credit. They are not going to be entirely thrilled with this budget.

I said I would talk about jobs. Failure in this area is the second big objection we have against this budget and against this energy policy. There is no industrial strategy in place in this country. We continue to export jobs with our raw resources. Very simply, what I mean by an industrial strategy is this: we want Canadians making the finished product from our resources for Canadian markets and for export. That family on Renfrew Street knows instinctively, as we all know, that this country is the most blessed country in the world in terms of resources. We also know that we are letting the Japanese, the Europeans and just about every other country in the world beat us in manufacturing. That is where the jobs are. Jobs are not in pipelines, though I hate to say that. There are a few jobs in pipelines, such as welding, digging and so on, but the real jobs are in a new manufacturing industry in Canada. But that is not the direction in which the Liberal party is moving and that is the second objection we have.

Let me give hon. members an example about which some members opposite know. The committee on natural resources held three hearings last week on the Arctic pilot project. This is an incredible project which will take gas from Melville Island, in the north of Canada, right across the northwest passage down to either Gros Cacouna in Quebec or in the Strait of Canso. What is equally incredible is that we are going to take the gas in foreign ships and export it when it is brought down. There is the whole problem of Canada; we have no industrial strategy, and it is evidenced right there.

In the budget there is mention of a regional strategy, a western development fund. Remember, this budget is taking \$20 billion out of the west. That is fine. The west should be sharing resources, but the west should be getting something back as well. What is the west getting back? We are getting a \$4 billion development fund.

**Mr. Andre:** It is \$2 billion.

**Mr. Waddell:** It says \$4 billion but my friend points out that it is \$2 billion. As a matter of fact, Senator Perrault announced this program in Vancouver a few months ago and everybody yawned. Then he went to Toronto and announced it again. Next it appeared on the front page of *The Globe and*

*Mail*, that oracle of wisdom in Canada. Apparently it was read by the government, taken up and put in the budget. The problem is, and I say this sincerely to my friends opposite who might wish to understand some of our concern in western Canada, that to us in the west it seems as though this is another example of Ottawa knowing best what is good for us, because it will be administered by one cabinet minister, the hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), and eastern Canadians. I ask the government: would it not be better to involve western Canadians in the development? Would it not be better to do what Premier Blakeney said, by making it a joint federal-provincial program? I suggest that to the government.

**Mr. Andre:** They are too stupid.

**Mr. Waddell:** I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister shortly after the election suggesting the government should set up a committee of the House of Commons and call it the western development committee. Why cannot opposition members be brought into such a committee and an opposition member be made the chairman of it? By this method the government could get some impact from western Canada. But the government has to listen.

I made a suggestion about a gas bank. I know the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. MacLaren) took up the proposal and now a gas bank has been proposed in the budget. I congratulate the government for that. I might also suggest to the government that it try to get Ontario and Quebec to consider the concept of gas banking. These provinces will need the gas in the future for their citizens. Action on these lines now will help national unity by making an investment in Alberta, and that makes a lot of sense. I have asked the government to pursue that idea. I also asked the government to look at—I think it is called Energetech—the new Crown corporation for alternate energy mentioned in the budget. I ask the government to consider putting the head office of that corporation in Vancouver. There is no province or region more interested in alternatives than the people of British Columbia. That would be a good move toward national unity. I urge the government not to do it in the old patronage style. They should put the head office in Vancouver where there will be a real response to it.

I want to address a couple of remarks to the government's off-oil policy. It is a simple policy and it seems to make sense at first, that is to move from oil to natural gas. I bring to the attention of members opposite, the minister's words when he discussed this policy:

We would resolve the nation's energy problem in all its dimension.

I see the Minister of Finance has just entered the chamber. The words of the minister of energy I have just quoted remind me of the old Tommy Douglas story. I do not know whether the minister will recall when Mr. Douglas was first elected as premier of Saskatchewan. I think he visited a mental hospital in Weyburn. He went up to a man and said, "Hello". The fellow asked him who he was. He answered by saying, "I am the Premier of Saskatchewan". The fellow replied, "Oh, you