

creating new ones. In addition to the direct impact of this undertaking there are also immense spinoff benefits which will come from ancillary developments.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the result of the exciting concept of injecting \$2 billion into a badly depressed economy at this time. I am amazed at the position taken by the New Democratic Party. On one hand we have the National Energy Board telling us of the surplus which exists because of the initiative of private enterprise and Petro-Canada in a mixed economy from the early seventies onward in finding excess gas. Since 1977, as the hon. senator, the minister responsible for the pipeline in 1977, mentioned, the volume of Canadian gas surplus to our needs and available for export has grown from 800 billion cubic feet to around 4.5 trillion cubic feet. How did it happen? Did Santa Claus wave a wand? Did the socialists insist on it? No. It was discovered because people with initiative and incentive went out and explored for it. Canadians, through their willingness to invest and participate, provided the capital which enabled these independent firms to find, since 1977, natural gas which under the socialist banner would remain in the ground until hell freezes over—a long time.

That is what has changed since 1977. The National Energy Board has been subjected to a lot of ridicule from time to time. It is doing a difficult job. It has stated we have 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas to export. The idea that anybody is likely to come along in ten or 15 years time and return those 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas at today's prices is very unrealistic. That amount probably will not even pay for the transportation 20 or 30 years from now. What we have, in other words, are reserves. We have the willingness, we have the need, we have the correct economic conditions in the sense that a \$2 billion injection would work against our best interests if it were brought in four or five years from now when the economy is, perhaps, at its height, when it would be nothing more than inflationary, when we could not spare the steelworkers, when the mills would be doing something else and the craftsmen would be doing something else, when the professionals would be busy with some other phase of our expansion. This is needed now, and the only thing that should hold us back is the presence of any real evidence that private enterprise does not intend to continue the pipeline in a few years. The NDP has not the slightest bit of evidence to that effect. What they have advanced is some skepticism about the value of the letter from the President of the United States. They have talked about the need to keep the gas in the ground for 20, 30 or 50 years. But note this: there has not been one protest about the millions and millions of barrels of heavy oil which flow out of the beautiful province of Saskatchewan. Not a word. Nor do they dare say a word, because Mr. Blakeney would tell them to get lost.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mackasey: If we listen to them we would never export copper. Because that is not renewable.

An hon. Member: Potash?

Mr. Mackasey: I was saving that for the end, but you have spoiled it!

Summer Recess

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mackasey: I was around when the NDP tried to seduce everybody in the House of Commons in an effort to get some agreement to get potash out of this country. Mr. Blakeney made trip after trip to the United States to talk to private enterprise so as to come to an accommodation about shipping out potash. And he did well.

What are the jobs I am talking about? Are they limited to steelworkers? If they were, it would be unfair. British Columbia is getting \$70 million; Alberta is getting \$650 million; Saskatchewan and Manitoba, \$360 million; Ontario and Quebec, \$360 million. Stelco in Hamilton will be providing 12,000 man-years—that is an interesting figure if you are listing steelworkers in Hamilton; Welland, 1,800 man-years; Regina, 10,000 man-years. Little wonder the steelworker labour unionists of Regina do not want anything more to do with the NDP. And we are talking about introducing a greater degree of industrialization to the west as inevitably must happen as natural resources become depleted, as they will one day. Camrose and Edmonton—I will not say too much about that particular area, but the benefit there will amount to 2,700 man-years. It is not just pipe.

Turbo-compressors costing \$20 million will have to be installed, creating 500 man-years of employment in the industrial heartland of Ontario. Three units will be purchased from the Cooper-Rolls Corporation in Montreal providing 100 man-years employment in the Rolls-Royce plant in Montreal; 80 man-years in Stratford, at the plant of Cooper Energy Services, and that is just one company—I cannot go on to list them all because so many companies are breathing sighs of relief today having learned that the government is courageous enough, with support of the official opposition, to bring forward a \$2 billion project at a time when Canada needs it.

The only thing that is creating the slightest reserve in anybody's mind is that the signature of the President of the United States and his letter are not worth the paper they are printed on. I happen to have a greater respect for the office of the President of the United States and for that country than do the New Democrats. If you share their philosophy, you can understand their cynicism and disdain. I do not happen to share it. I can understand their concern. Their concern is that they are becoming superfluous.

● (1630)

I made a few notes on the comments of the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent). He wiped out \$500 million as if it were nothing. He referred to a feasibility study. That \$500 million is not going to a feasibility study. It is going for an engineering and conditioning plant in Alaska. The Leader of the New Democratic Party called it a feasibility study. That would be some study if it were to cost \$500 million. I wonder what the whole project would be worth.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!