

industries working, the small businessmen and the farmers. More production would beat inflation. We have told the government that. Raising interest rates up and up will not beat inflation. What we have to do is to get the hundreds and thousands of entrepreneurs producing in the country. We have to increase our net worth. If all these things are done, we will see inflation go down. This government wonders why we have more and more inflation, but the very things this government does produces inflation. The government asks why our businesses go bankrupt. Businesses are going bankrupt because of high interest rates and the policies this government follows.

This government talks about energy. The province of Alberta has no reason to be in this mess with energy. We have no hope of being self-sustaining by 1990 now. That opportunity has passed. The Premier of Alberta offered the Prime Minister of Canada on July 25 last year a deal that would have given us a good program in Canada. The government talks about sharing. We were prepared to share under the offer made by Premier Lougheed to Prime Minister Trudeau. The Prime Minister turned down that offer. That offer would have provided \$24,000 to the rest of Canada from every Albertan. That amounted to more than \$48 billion, but Trudeau turned it down.

An hon. Member: Order, please.

Mr. Taylor: It would have provided a pipeline—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member should refer to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, the Right Hon. Prime Minister. But he turned it down. We would have had the Q and M Pipeline underway by this time. We would have had \$2 billion for western transportation. But the Right Hon. Prime Minister turned the offer down. He did not want to accept it. That would not be in line with his plan for disunity in this country. He wants disunity in Canada, and that is the way he is doing it.

● (2250)

What about the cost of living today which is going up and up and up? Heating oil is up 52 per cent more than it was a year ago. Gas is up 42.7 per cent and fresh vegetables up 37.6 per cent over a year ago. The cost of living is going higher. Every time we talk about the poverty of many of our people, all we hear is what the government did a year ago when it increased the amount for senior citizens. Sure it did, but what has it done lately? Does it expect the old age pensioners to live with that increase forever? The members here could not live on what they were getting. Let us show these people the same consideration we showed ourselves.

Then there was the smokescreen of the cartel. I listened with interest today to the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey). He said that Senator Austin is innocent. I hope he is. If so, why not produce the documents? What is the government

afraid of? Clear him of suspicion. What is there to hide? Why not let the documents come out? That is what those on this side are asking for. Come clean if you have nothing to hide.

I have been trying to ask a question in this House for a few days. Last Monday there was a sign on the entrance gates to Banff National Park which read "20 per cent interest on American money". That is more than the banks are paying. I was told the people there had never seen so many American \$100 bills. I can understand that we need hard currency for the Third World countries, but the United States does not happen to be a Third World country.

Why is the government being so generous with the taxpayers' money. It pays higher interest than the banks. There is not another business in Banff that pays more than 18 per cent, and certainly not more than 19 per cent. The banks were paying 19 per cent. However, the government of Canada is paying 20 per cent, using the taxpayers' money.

We have a \$14 billion deficit and an \$80 billion debt. Nothing is being done to help small businesses. Sure the small business development bond was brought in, but those who need it most cannot get it. You have to be incorporated in order to get the bond. The government will not let them use it on their inventory. They deny that use. Then the government uses that bond as an example of what it is doing to help small business. All it is doing is helping to send small business into bankruptcy. Just look at the number of businesses going bankrupt.

The government talks about its energy policy and the uranium cartel. This afternoon the minister of mines said it had saved a lot of jobs in her city. The coalminers in my town have had to go without government help. They lost their jobs when coal was no longer competitive. They have watched the Ontario government bring in coal from the United States, something it is still doing.

What about the acid rain problem? We bring in high sulphur coal from the United States when in this country we have coal that is almost acid free. Why not reduce acid rain and at the same time create jobs for our coalminers?

There is tremendous potential in this country. This is a wonderful country stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the 49th parallel to the Arctic. However, we need policies that will encourage development and investment. Stop sending all the oil rigs to the United States. Stop cutting off the desire to invest in this country. Remove the energy policy which is causing so much hardship. The energy minister said the National Energy Program is needed to advance Canada's economy. Look at the results. What good has it been? We are paying a lot more for our gas.

We bought Petrofina. Petro-Canada does not act like a private corporation. Why did it not buy Petrofina and charge it to its profits? No. The price at the pumps was increased in order to pay for Petrofina. What good is it to the people of western Canada? No good at all. What good is it to the people of eastern Canada? No good at all. Why not put that money toward producing more oil and thus reaching toward self-sufficiency?