

Supply

I want to ask the Hon. Minister about these great pretenders who pretend to defend Alberta and the west. I should like to refer to a direct quotation from their policy resolutions. The Leader of the New Democratic Party said that they stand by all of them and will not change their mind to court public opinion. How will the following resolution help the good City of Calgary and western Canada, "The phasing out of all oil exports to the United States and a ban on the export of current supply of natural gas"? What would that do to Calgary? What would that do to western Canada? What would that do to Canada?

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, obviously that would be an utter disaster to western Canada. Presumably it would make the people in Oshawa feel more comfortable to have the west remain a kind of sump or storage tank for oil and gas, so his constituents in Oshawa would never have to worry about supply.

The jobs of people who explore for oil, do the drilling, the geophysical work, the geological work, the pipeline work, and so on, are not real jobs! I mean, a real job is working on an assembly line in a foreign-owned automotive company! Those are not real jobs out there? They are supposed to find enough and keep it in a storage tank so that the people in Oshawa, apparently, will not have to worry about security in the future, but if people in Alberta are put out of work because of those policies, too bad! They will show their sincerity by introducing absurd motions, all the while adopting policies at their conventions which would make the statistics real, which would cause that loss of 50,000 jobs.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) wishes to make a comment and ask a question.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a short comment and a question. I must say that this performance is beneath the Hon. Minister. It is full of half-truths and hypocrisy. It pits one segment of the country against the other. It shows a complete misunderstanding of the Auto Pact which forced reinvestment. It is a disgusting performance.

If the Albertan people, as the Minister claims, know very well what the Government is doing, why did they reduce the Government's majority in the Pembina by-election from 35,000 to 232 votes? Why did they do that?

• (1240)

Mr. Gormley: Who did they elect?

Mr. Waddell: Why did they do that?

Mr. Gormley: Who did they elect? They elected a Tory.

Mr. Waddell: Is he calling the Conference Board misleading? The Conference Board said that economic activity in Alberta in the last year fell; that economic activity decreased by .07 per cent. Is the Minister disputing that fact?

I know the Minister loves the past, I guess he wishes he were in opposition, he loves it. He remembers that time, but we are dealing with the here and now, not yesterday. What is his position on the Husky upgrader in Lloydminster? What is the Minister going to do about that? What is the Minister's position on the Amoco takeover of Dome Petroleum?

Mr. Andre: Very quickly on the question of the facts, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, the collapse in oil prices and the collapse in grain prices have had an effect. There is no denying that. But the question is, has the Government reacted to that? Has the Government introduced programs? Has the Government responded favourably and impressively?

Mr. Gormley: The answer is yes.

Mr. Andre: The answer is yes. The numbers are there. The facts are there. If the Hon. Member and his Party were being honest, they would recognize that. They apparently feel there is no partisan advantage in being honest.

As to the Amoco takeover of Dome, I am very pleased that there is bidding for Dome. This is very bullish news for the industry. Dome has a large land position, as the Hon. Member might know but probably does not. He might know that in the oil and gas industry most plays, drilling of wells and so on, are joint ventures. Many companies have joint venture arrangements with Dome, and that has effectively sterilized lands because Dome is in no position to participate and take up its share. If there were an active owner of Dome that could manage those properties, like an oil company, rather than doing what Dome has done in the last couple of years, of trying to survive, it would be very bullish news for the west—

Mr. Gagnon: It would create jobs.

Mr. Andre: It would create thousands of jobs. The question which the New Democrats have to consider is whether they are willing to sacrifice those thousands of jobs that would be created through a successful takeover of Dome because of their concern over the foreign ownership provisions. That is the question. If we were to follow NDP policy and say no to this takeover, we would be putting in jeopardy thousands and thousands of jobs as well as many little companies in the service sector about which the Hon. Member expressed concern. That is what the Hon. Member has to bear in mind.

It is marvellous to sit in opposition in great sanctimony and to wax eloquent on these questions of foreign ownership, of Amoco and so on, and at the same time worry about jobs but not make the intellectually honest connection between the two. You cannot have it both ways.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated. Debate. The Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton).

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in this debate. We have just learned graphically why the