

*Supply*

Ontario, a Toronto businessman. Western Canadians, specifically Albertans, do not want Toronto businessman studying their oil industry. They have made lots of suggestions to the Government.

We have raised the matter of Dome Petroleum, an important issue with which the Minister of Energy is dealing. We New Democrats have opposed the Amoco take-over of Dome. We think this is a backward step. Just when the west is trying to get out of a dependant relationship with eastern Canada and the United States, the Government, in contradiction to previous policies, reduces the level of Canadian ownership from 50 per cent to 40 per cent with this one deal. That means when the oil glut ends in the 1990s the multinationals will again be the beneficiaries, and the ordinary Albertan and the small oil companies will lose out.

How much time do I have left, Mr. Speaker?

• (1140)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Your time has just expired. Questions or comments? Debate.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I thought I had more time. I realize that you were signalling that my time was up but I thought, as lead-off speaker, that I had more time. Perhaps I could ask permission of the House to have two minutes to sum up? I want to sum up by making positive suggestions.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Does the Hon. Member have two minutes to sum up his remarks?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I say to the Hon. Member that when I conclude my remarks I will be more than happy to entertain at least two minutes of questions from the Hon. Member so that he can complete what I thought was a very useful and intelligent description of some of the important issues facing this House.

In the last three or four months this House has had the occasion, mainly through opposition resolutions, to address a series of motions dealing with the issues facing western Canada. We introduced a resolution in December and one in the new year. There was a three-day farm debate and now we are dealing with a resolution presented by members of the New Democratic caucus.

In each of those debates we attempted to describe a deteriorating situation in western Canada, to provide some clear warning of the consequences for the entire country, and to prescribe some responses to it.

I must say that what we have received from the Government in return has not been particularly rewarding. The only result we have seen so far is the latest tour of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who went to western Canada for a three-day shopping centre visit where there were controlled crowds, with

limited exposure. There was no real attempt to come to grips with the issues by dealing with the problems that exist there.

While we could go over the many statistics that the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) has just provided, I think it is perhaps much better to look at the situation as one would look at a series of pictures, to more graphically illustrate the kinds of difficulties people are facing in Alberta and western Canada.

I was struck by an article that appeared in the *Calgary Herald* on May 18. It is entitled: "Idle Nisku shocks Tory tour". It describes how a group of Tory Members of Parliament from other parts of Canada visited Alberta and found just how bad things were in the oil service industry. The article states:

"I thought it was a lot better than that", Jean-Guy Guilbault, MP for the central Quebec riding of Drummond, said after a brief tour around the depressed Nisku industrial park.

**Mr. Schellenberger:** Your National Energy Program crippled that park.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Now we hear from the Members of Alberta the time honoured refrain that it was the NEP that did it. Let me pose an interesting question to the Hon. Members from Alberta. Why was there far less drilling activity last year than there was in 1983, 1984, and 1985 when the National Energy Program was in effect? If their policies were so brilliant and insightful, why had the oil industry, which had a capital investment of over \$9 billion in 1985 when the NEP was still in effect and just beginning to be dismantled, failed by \$4.5 billion by the next year?

I suggest to the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) that when the National Energy Program was in effect there was \$9.5 billion of capital investment going into the oil industry. When his Government came to power and began to dismantle that program, the result was 50 per cent less drilling activity and \$5 billion less in capital investment in that industry. The Member shakes his head, but those are the facts.

**Mr. Schellenberger:** Not all the facts.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Perhaps we can see the problem. The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway properly pointed out that Tory Members of Parliament, with one or two exceptions, are incapable of seeing the facts. They do not have the capacity to remove their ideological blinders that have so mesmerized them over the years. Their problem is that they made the worst political mistake by believing their own propaganda, therefore ignoring the reality in the region they are supposed to represent. Consequently, they try to find scapegoats, try to blame others, and try to find external reasons for the problems, such as something in the past, rather than facing up to the reality that after two and one-half years in Government the resource commodity economy in western Canada is in a serious slump and has been decoupled from the economic growth in the rest