

important, as you must, when are we going to stop the rhetoric and see some action? In his speech on October 20, the Minister of State for Economic Development said this was a top priority. Yet the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) said on September 22 that we do not have any money to spend on technology. He said that in Vancouver. And the budget talks about this new great era of high technology we are approaching. It can only be described as fraud on the part of this minister. If the senator from Alberta, who is now the Minister of State for Economic Development, had a modicum of decency and self-respect he would resign forthwith.

I said earlier to the Minister of Finance that he does not understand what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has done to him. He has made a dishonest forecaster out of him. The minister of energy has no idea what makes the energy industry run in this country. He cannot understand and at the same time say in this House, as he did yesterday in response to a question by my hon. friend from Calgary South about the number of rigs which would be leaving Canada and the drop-off in exploration:

Madam Speaker, I have not had the latest report on the stock market, but by eleven o'clock this morning I was told Canadian stocks were holding very well and that some decrease had taken place in the value of the shares of multinationals, although those decreases appeared at that time to be rather small. I think it shows that the business community has indeed examined this budget and found that it was a fair and good budget.

I assume the minister believes what he said, believes that it was a good and fair budget and that it would be so viewed by the industry. Obviously, the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex believes it. But what did the stock market do? Yesterday, starting about an hour after the minister made his response, the market in oils took a drop and plunged 363 points. That was Wednesday. And today it dropped 420 points.

● (2050)

It lost 800 points in two days. To find a fall as disastrous as that we have to go back to October, 1929. What is it about Octobers, Mr. Speaker? In October, 1970, the government went berserk and brought out the army. In October, 1980, they went berserk and destroyed an industry. What happens? What happens in Octobers?

**An hon. Member:** The full moon.

**An hon. Member:** Hallowe'en madness.

**An hon. Member:** Get your Indian blankets.

**Mr. Andre:** As I pointed out at the beginning of my speech, and with sincerity because I believe it—unfortunately it worries me—I do not know if this country will survive, if the integrity of this country will remain, if our democracy will remain.

On the question of democracy, Mr. Speaker, I will give the reasons I have reached that conclusion. In the budget speech, the Minister of Finance said he had heeded the representations of the provinces and so there would be no export tax. A

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paragraph later he said there would be a tax on the sale of gas to the United States. The pathetic thing about this is that the guardians of the public's right to know put that across the nation. Millions of Canadians saw it on television. There would be no export tax. They believed it, of course.

When the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen) spoke earlier, he said the reason the west does not understand the Liberal party is because they cannot get their message across. And the Liberal member who spoke ahead of me was spouting out these blatant, dishonest statements from the budget as if they are true. The public believes it, because they saw it on television. To their credit, some economic writers were not fooled and pointed out that in fact this was a blatant, dishonest deception. A lot of the political writers, however, said, "My, isn't the minister clever. Isn't he wily. He is so wily he is able to confuse the people."

How long can a democracy carry on when the public guardians, the fifth estate who write about politics, look at chicanery, mischief, deception, advertising, polling, mind manipulation, as examples of wiliness to be applauded and cheered? How long can a democracy last under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker? Not long. This budget was a most disgusting example of political—

**An hon. Member:** Don't be shy.

**Mr. Andre:** The hon. member opposite sits there grinning. If he behaves and applauds, he will get in the cabinet too. He knows that principle is not the way in which to advance one's political fortunes. Why should he be worried about Albertans? His attitude is, "For goodness sake, they are a bunch of crazies out there—Saskatchewanians and British Columbians too. They do not vote Liberal anyway, so they must be dumb. They do not vote Liberal so how can they be Canadians? Why should we care about them?"

The minister had a choice in his budget. He had to raise money but he could have raised it across the whole country and have made everybody mad at him. He said in the House, oh no. The sun was not going to set on that minister of finance. He is too wily for that. Applause, applause. "We are going to pick our enemies. We are going to get those westerners. They did not vote for us anyway. We can form a majority government without them, so why don't we?"

I will tell you why he should not have done it, Mr. Speaker. It is because the country may not survive, that is why.

**An hon. Member:** Come off it!

**Mr. Andre:** Phone somebody in the west. Do not just sit there listening to that nonsense. Phone people in the west and ask them, if you care about Canada. Can you imagine what would happen to a government that did this to Quebec? I ask you, what price would we pay for oil and gas if it were in Ontario and Quebec?

**An hon. Member:** You are using Lévesque's tactics.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Oh, oh!