

*Taxation*

oil supply, of our country. The government did not find one drop of oil with all the money that it borrowed to purchase Petrofina. What did we hear from the so-called New Democrats? What did we hear from those in the "Liberal Party West"? We heard, "Good, that is what we should be doing. Go out and buy more, borrow more money, and let us buy up these companies. But do not stop with Petrofina; let us go after the big ones. Let us nail Esso." That is what we heard from the "New Democratic Party West".

We have seen the result of the tax grab of the national energy policy, the petroleum and gas revenue tax referred to in this bill. We have seen the destruction of a viable, healthy industry which has been universally recognized as the one industry which could lead Canada out of the economic mess we are in today. I ask hon. members opposite to think about it for a minute. We have seen the result of the petroleum and gas revenue tax. The Alsands and Cold Lake projects are dead, with the accompanying loss of jobs, loss of homes, loss of savings, loss of small business and bankruptcies. We have seen the results and we will see more of the results. We have seen all of the eight megaprojects, or the Alsands and tar sands projects proposed and outlined in the task force on projects in this decade to the 1990s. Every last one of them has been put on hold or killed.

Billions of dollars of investment are down the tube while Canada is facing an economic situation unparalleled in our industry. Why? It is because this government can no longer be trusted. Industry no longer trusts this present government. Industry has very clearly stated, "We cannot trust the government to enter into an agreement with us today. We cannot believe that an agreement will remain in place for five years." Those in industry do not even know if an agreement with the government can be trusted to remain in place for two years, let alone five years. The Government of Canada, the government of my country, can no longer be trusted in the international community to keep its word.

In closing, I can only say most sincerely that I hope all hon. members will think about it. As long as the Liberal government remains in power, there will be no more economic development in this country and no more megaprojects—and that is a fact—because the government is not trusted.

● (1520)

**Mr. Jack Burghardt (London West):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to rise and speak on Bill C-93 as it relates to granting the government fiscal borrowing authority. Members of the House will realize that Bill C-93 seeks to authorize the government to borrow some \$6.6 billion. All unused borrowing authority obtained under the Borrowing Authority Act, 1981-82, to the extent that it exceeds \$3 billion, was cancelled on March 31 this year. Without new borrowing powers the government will not be able to obtain the necessary funds to meet its financial requirements for 1982-83. The \$6.6 billion being requested represents the estimated budgetary and non-budgetary financial requirements for 1982-83.

When he spoke during debate on this bill last week my colleague the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey) referred to the strains put on society at this time in Canadian history. He recalled the strains of the depression years, the "hungry thirties". I remember those years as a young boy, but unlike my colleague from Lincoln who I believe said he was not directly affected by those years, I was.

If I may be permitted a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I remember my father pulling me on a sled during the winter to the relief store which was the equivalent of being on welfare today—but not with all the welfare benefits we now have—to get some groceries and a pair of shoes. My father was out of work. It was not that he did not try to find employment; there was no work available. I remember in later years, when I was a bit older, my father telling me how degrading and humiliating it was to go through that process of having to go to the relief store in order to provide for his family.

It was a crisis time for my family and thousands of other Canadian families, a crisis which many people are facing today. But there is a difference. Through social concern for Canadian families, Liberal governments over the years have provided many assistance programs and social benefits which were certainly not available during the thirties.

In the Chinese language the word for crisis is composed of two characters meaning danger and opportunity. In that sense, I suggest to you, we are going through one of the major crises of Canadian history. Certainly recent events have been matters of extreme concern for Canada but it has equally been a time of tremendous opportunities. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, Canadians on many fronts are facing a greater concentration of unsolved problems than ever before. And yet, this sternest challenge of Canadian history may become our greatest hour.

If I may be permitted another personal comment, Mr. Speaker, my father took ill when I was 13 and he died shortly after. I had to go out to work and I have been working ever since. Whatever I have, which is not very much, I acquired through my own initiative. I strongly believe in the work ethic. I believe in the free enterprise system. Because of my personal experiences, I strongly believe as well in social concern, and that in fact I am my brother's keeper. That is why I am a Liberal and why I ran as a member of the Liberal party, a little more than a year ago, in the by-election in London West.

Our Canadian way of life over the years has seen a coming together of the free enterprise system and a social system where, through government direction and involvement, some of the benefits of free enterprise have been shared with the less fortunate.

Unfortunately of late, it seems to me that our view of Canada, our view of this great country, has sunk into a swamp of competing angers, of shabby "me first" recriminations. Loyalty to, and interest in, Canada as a nation has frequently been secondary to regional concerns. We have lost much of that mix, that compromise of free enterprise and social concern.