

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST THAT FORGET COMMISSION BE EMPOWERED TO
INVESTIGATE CASES OF FRAUD

Mr. Édouard Desrosiers (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words today about a very troubling aspect of unemployment insurance.

Last week we heard to our astonishment that unemployment insurance investigators had discovered an insurance fraud of \$800,000. It is a fact that cases of unemployment insurance fraud are being discovered almost daily. We have been told that more than \$3 billion is lost annually in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I would therefore ask the Government to give the Forget Commission the authority to investigate fraud—a mandate it does not have at this time—in order to give the Commission the kind of access it needs to get at the very root of this problem. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Commission of Inquiry be given the necessary tools to re-organize the Unemployment Insurance system—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The 60 seconds are up.

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● (1405)

[English]

ENERGY

DECLINE IN PRICE OF CRUDE OIL—IMPACT ON EAST COAST
PROJECTS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has estimated in its Budget that oil prices will be \$22.50. In reality, the price of West Texas intermediate crude is now \$13.26 U.S. That is the price on which Canadian crude oil prices are based. The Government of Canada was warned when it cancelled the PIP that it was going to destroy exploration and production in the offshore, in the Beaufort Sea, and to some extent, given the current fiscal regime, in the tar sands. That is becoming a reality.

On the weekend a report by Deacon Hodgson of Calgary and Toronto estimated that the industry will lose \$9 billion in revenues this year and it will be impossible to find the money in the current fiscal regime for the tar sands or the offshore. I want to bring to the Government's attention the fact that it has destroyed the best chance for regional economic development in Atlantic Canada, by killing Hibernia and destroying the offshore of Nova Scotia. I ask the Government to take immediate and appropriate measures to give these important projects in Atlantic Canada a chance for life.

S.O. 21

THE BUDGET

IMPACT ON AVERAGE FAMILY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has taken exception to NDP estimates of the tax hikes his Budgets have imposed on the average family of four. Mr. Speaker, we used conservative estimates. A 3 per cent increase in federal sales tax adds \$450, higher taxes on oil and gas add \$250, higher personal taxes add \$385, higher UI premiums and lower family allowance payments add \$125, and higher taxes on alcohol and cigarettes add \$95 over the three Budgets.

I do not know how much the Conservative Budgets have cost hard-drinking, heavy-smoking, coast-to-coast truck drivers. I doubt if there are any left to ask as they have probably all gone bankrupt.

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VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

SUCCESS OF SASKATCHEWAN'S KINSMEN TELEMIRACLE

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Saskatchewan marked its tenth annual Kinsmen Telemiracle. For the second year in a row this 20-hour television extravaganza raised over \$2 million for the benefit of disabled residents of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan residents have long been recognized for donating more on a per capita basis to support world-wide relief programs, but this latest outpouring gives credence to the old adage that charity begins at home. We have long recognized the important contribution of the Kinsmen association, but I would also like to acknowledge and salute the people of my home province who, in spite of tough economic times, recognize the need for continuing support of this very worth-while project.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

ACCEPTANCE IN REGIONS

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to listen to what the regions have to say about the latest Budget.

The day after the Budget Speech, local television and radio stations commented as follows and I quote: "The Wilson Budget will not harm the regional economy but will have a positive impact."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this Budget will have a positive impact on the economy of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, since each economic sector stands to benefit from the concrete and effective measures it contains.