

Supply

● (1740)

I wish I had a couple of hours in which to make my speech. However, I should like to refer to a 29-page report which was written on March 31, 1987. It is entitled the *Western Diversification Company Report*. It contains instructions for completing a company report form. It contains some very interesting things. On behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister I should like to announce that it is worth-while reading. I am sure some members of the Conservative Party would like to go through it.

It talks about Government as an institution. It talks about impact. It talks about jobs which could be created, jobs which could be maintained, and jobs which could be reduced or lost because of certain initiatives in western Canada. It also talks about time frame, the current stage of development, appropriate action, new product opportunities, types of action, other opportunities, rationale, impact, constraints on investment, and so on.

I see that I have only three minutes remaining. There are many things which I could mention, but I should like to refer to a copy of a document which I have in hand. It is called the *Interview Guide Instructions*. It contains the instructions for interviewers when they do their advance work on the western diversification initiative. Once again, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister let me say that this guide is being studied by public servants in their approach to the economy of western Canada.

The interview guide contains a number of things. It talks about the depth of the information. We all feel that the study should be a thorough one. The document indicates that unless the Government has a clear and specific understanding of the opportunities and obstacles facing an organization, it will not be in a position to respond with either immediate action or longer term policy initiatives.

As we can see from the document, the consultations are just in the preliminary stages. They have not had time to get into them. It is a real concern to those of us in the west. I am not an Albertan, but I am sure it is a concern to Albertans as well. The western diversification initiative has been delayed and stalled. We are now asking why it has been stalled or delayed. Certainly the guide instructions are available.

I also have another document which made itself available to me in some mysterious way. It is called the *Western Diversification Initiative*. On behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and if I have time, I would like to announce the purpose of this initiative. Also on his behalf I would like to give the background to this western diversification initiative.

If I had the time, I would tell the House what is the issue. I would also indicate the federal government participation. That is an interesting one because neither the Prime Minister nor the Deputy Prime Minister has announced it. I would also tell the House about the DRIE participation. Of course its participation is very key.

I also have the DRIE operational plan. It is interesting to look at it. If someone would ask me a question about it, perhaps I could read into the record some of the things which are being said in this regard. In addition I also have the objectives.

Does anyone in the House know what are the objectives of the western diversification initiative? I ask my towering friend from Red Deer that question. Does he know what are the objectives?

There is also the question of output. It is interesting because the Hon. Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Duguay) said that diversification would be built upon agriculture, mining, resources, and so on. However, this document does not really mention that at all. In part it reads:

In the Western Diversification Initiative DRIE will lead intensive, targeted discussions over a very tight time period with selected firms in the manufacturing and service sectors in western Canada—

Is my time up, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member's time has expired.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom). Two weeks after the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) announced his Canadian Exploration and Development Incentive Program, he announced that there would be a \$3 million study into energy in Canada to be undertaken by Mr. Thomas Kierans of Toronto. He is a partner in a brokerage firm on Bay Street. By the way, he is the same man who is conducting the study into privatization which involves questions about the privatization of Petro-Canada. In my opinion it is a conflict of interest.

Although the privatization study was supposed to be reported back to the Government by April 1, we do not know whether in fact that occurred or whether the two studies overlap. Even if they did not overlap, there is still a conflict of interest.

Two weeks after the Minister will supposedly give \$350 million to the energy sector over a period of time, he is now questioning the role of oil and gas in the whole Canadian sector. This does not even take into account another study, which was announced at the conference of energy Ministers in January, to determine which megaprojects will go ahead. That study is supposed to report back on July 1.

The Minister has initiated a second study which involves the first study. However, he did not wait for the first study to report so that the second study could have the benefit of the first study. Be that as it may, we also have the make-up of the Kierans Commission. It is holding hearings in Calgary on June 15 and June 16. Then it will hold hearings in other areas, ending with hearings in Montreal in December. Of course we have a Bay Street firm which is hoping to learn from the oil and gas industry during the June hearings, but those are the last planned hearings on the oil and gas industry.