

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member would be the first to agree with me when I say that, if the Liberals had been in power, they probably would have gotten nothing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Let me remind him of the formula which I announced in the House yesterday. I said that we would be equitable in applying a 95 per cent floor to the three provinces which would not be receiving the same amount of equalization in the current fiscal year. Obviously that affected different provinces in different ways, because there are different variations from that 95 per cent floor. Since I think he is comparing the Province of Quebec with the Province of Manitoba, I would remind him that Manitoba, without any changes in the equalization payments, will see its amounts go from 480 to 408 to 367 under the formula which the Liberals introduced in 1982. This is why the Province of Manitoba is being treated somewhat better in terms of the absolute amount which has been provided under the supplementary payments.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL RECONSIDER QUEBEC DEMANDS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I might remind the Minister that he is the one who decided to slash \$1 billion off Quebec projects. He is the one who decided to give Quebec only \$110 million, and it was the Premier of Quebec on television last night who was quite disappointed by the Minister's decision. I would hope that it was not an April Fools' Day joke he played on the Premier of Quebec who supported him during the last election campaign. Is the Minister prepared to reconsider his decision and give the Quebec Government at least 75 per cent of the equalization payment it had asked for?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to a billion dollars in projects which have been cut by the Government. I would ask him to table that amount and the specifics of it, and we will have a look at it. I think he will find that the amount is grossly overestimated, as is normally the case with the questions the Hon. Member puts.

I would have like to have done more but, as the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice said yesterday, we had to look at our own deficit, and we cannot try to control the size of our deficit as well as provide the full amount of money—

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: How many new jobs in Quebec!

[English]

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If the Hon. Member would care to listen, I would give him an answer.

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ENERGY

WESTERN ACCORD—TAXATION INQUIRY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the Minister of Finance and questions on the energy deal which he has not answered so far. The Deputy Minister of Energy for Ontario correctly pointed out that the Government has given away the store. I should like the Minister to answer the question this time. Considering that he has given oil companies over a billion dollars over the next two years and that, if a tax increase is levied by the federal Government to make up for that billion dollars, it will cost Canada about 20,000 jobs, will the Minister make a commitment that there will be no tax increase to make up for it?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party is throwing a lot of speculation out on the table here. He knows I will not speculate on matters which will be in the Budget. However, I remind him, as I reminded his colleague from Vancouver-Kingsway, that this energy accord will create a vast number of jobs right across the country. That is very clear, and we will stand on that record.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that he is whistling in the dark. The Deputy Minister of Energy for Ontario, if not the Premier of Ontario, knows how ludicrous are the Minister's statements. Since it is correct that he cannot tell us in advance, in terms of his responsibility, what will be in the Budget, but can tell us, maintaining his responsibility, what will not be in the Budget—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dick: He can't do that.

Mr. Broadbent: He can do that. The people behind him can cheer the oil companies, but we are on the side of the people of Canada. Will he tell the people now, before the election is over in Ontario, that there will be no increases in tax as a result of this give-away to oil companies?

● (1500)

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Canada said on September 4 that the Conservative Party speaks for the people of Canada as well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!