

Oral Questions

It is vital that the energy-based industries in western Canada and off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador be given an opportunity to become the engines of growth, of job creation, that we know they can. After four years of having been crippled by a Government in Ottawa, we are now getting that industry back to the point where it will bring new prosperity to the West and to all Canada, and I know my hon. friend would want to support us on that.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I repeat to the Prime Minister we are not talking about normal profits, we are talking about windfall profits. It is quite clear that the Government has no intention of getting the oil companies to pay their fair share.

I want to ask him one other question that he did not deal with yesterday. He did say in reply to a question from the Leader of the Opposition a few minutes ago that the only aspect of the Budget that was unfair was the proposal as it affected pensioners. Does he regard a Budget that, over five years, will result in a net reduction in taxes in excess of \$4,000 for a family earning over \$200,000 on the one hand, but increases taxes by over \$600 for a family earning \$15,000 a year, as being fair and, if he does not, when he comes back in September will he change that as well?

● (1130)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, again I say with respect that I think we have all learned to listen carefully to my hon. friend, but when he deals with mathematics or job creation, most people tune out. The numbers the Hon. Member put forward in November and December have turned out to be absolutely false. Job creation is at a record high, because the Hon. Member was wrong and the Government happened to be right.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HON. HOWARD PAWLEY, PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Mr. Speaker: May I advise Hon. Members of the presence in our gallery today of the Hon. Howard Pawley, Premier of the Province of Manitoba.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE BUDGET

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S ANALYSIS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport before he leaves the sinking ship and goes off to greener

pastures in Alberta. The Prime Minister has indicated that the Budget will have a wonderful job-creation impact, yet a report prepared by the Minister's own Department, the Economic Analysis Section of the Policy Co-ordination Unit, has said that the federal Budget of May 23 is assessed by the Economic Analysis Unit as having the potential to slow down economic growth and will provide little stimulus to transportation activities. Further, it says that there is an expected loss in 1986 of 20,000 to 50,000 jobs.

Does the Minister of Transport agree with the assessment that was prepared by his own economic forecasters? Has he shared this assessment with the Minister of Finance? Does he stand by the figures prepared by his own Department which predict that the Budget will, in fact, have the effect of a direct job loss for Canadians, contrary to what the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister have been saying?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Hon. Member would fail to acknowledge the fact that there have been 271,000 new jobs created since this Government took office.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: That fact is contrary to the speculation that was made by the Hon. Member, by the leader of his Party, and indeed by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. I suggest that the comments he is trying to read into the record are of a similar nature.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I find it curious that the Minister of Transport is now denying the forecasts made by officials of his own Department. This is not speculation, it is hard figures and forecasts made by senior officials of his Department who go on to say that, in fact, there will be a major—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the Hon. Member is embarking on a preamble. Could he please ask a question?

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister of Transport directly once again if he has conveyed the results of this economic report, prepared by his Department, to the Minister of Finance, and if he will take some action in his own Department to restore the kind of stimulus his own Department says is needed if the transportation industry is not to be hurt over the next four years.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I know that when the Hon. Member was Minister of Transport he chose to ignore the advice of his Department on a number of occasions. He had his own views on certain aspects of transportation policy contrary to the views of his own departmental officials. I have not seen the document to which he is referring, so I am not sure what it is. However, assuming that it is a Transport Canada document, I would say to the