

reason for this is that they are responding to the programs, policies and the attitude of the Government.

Let me talk about small business and the impact upon it of the energy Accord. A spokesman for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has said that he foresees between 30,000 and 40,000 small-business jobs in companies that support the oil and gas industry. That energy services industry was absolutely decimated by the National Energy Program. I know that is the case because I visited those companies in the foothills of Alberta and saw the impact of the National Energy Program upon them. It is those small companies which will come back in a strong way as a result of this Accord. I can see that recovery taking place across the country.

The Canadian Association of Oil Well Drilling Contractors predicts that this industry will create about 20,000 jobs directly as a result of an increased energy industry.

Let me repeat the position of the Government of Ontario. The Government of Ontario represents consumers and very little oil and gas production in that province. The Government states that the Western Accord offers great potential for Ontario and indeed all of Canada, not only for lower oil and gas prices for the consumers of this province but for the investment in industrial activity that will subsequently flow. It says that there is certainly nothing in that agreement that can be said to be adverse to Ontario's interests.

So much for the Liberal tactic of division. Liberals, under their new Leader, are persisting in following its previous energy policies. They are still trying to divide the country. Surely Hon. Members understand the damage that was done to the country during the years 1980 to 1983 which saw the rise of the western separatist movement when the Liberals ignored the impact of their policy on the interests of western Canada. I urge Hon. Members to think very carefully about how they present their views in the House because they are falling into the same trap as the previous Government by ignoring the impact of their policies. We must avoid such an impact if we are going to keep this country together. Our Government has worked hard at bringing the country together and convincing Canadians that by working together we will build a stronger economy.

When Prime Minister Hawke spoke to the National Economic Conference here a couple of weeks ago, he said that the very important consideration we must always remember is that working together and understanding the points of view of all parts of the country is the way we create economic development. That is the way we create jobs and learn to pull together, rather than push apart. With the co-operation of the Opposition Parties, I am sure that we can continue this process and build a much stronger Canada.

● (1630)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions, comments. The Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart).

Supply

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on record some facts about Quebec which the Minister seems to forget. Concerning the energy agreement, he refuses like the Minister responsible for Energy to assure this House that this energy agreement will not be implemented at the expense of the consumers. When Quebec members suggest that we are concerned about that agreement, it is not because of the people out West; the Minister knows very well it is because of the multinational corporations. If he wants information about that, let him have a word with the Hon. Member sitting behind him, a Progressive Conservative member. In case he does not know him, the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) remembers very well that when the then Quebec Minister of Finance, Mr. Parizeau, partly reduced his elevator tax, the ones who immediately, the next day, took advantage of that reduction were not the consumers but the oil multinationals with whom the Minister is now cosily in bed. They absorbed that tax.

We, of the Liberal Party, support job creation, but what we want to know, and what the Minister will not say, is this: Who is going to pay for that? It is a disguised tax increase in his budget, if he cannot give that assurance today. And the Minister wants us to trust him. But, as he will recall, he himself admitted in a press report that, during the elections, he would not reveal his true intentions with respect to terminating social program universality, something he wanted to do afterwards. What guarantee do we have that he is not now cooking up something of that kind?

With respect to job creation, since the Minister hands out over \$1 billion to the big oil companies, I would like to know why he should not set \$250 million aside for needy senior citizens, for single, separated and divorced people. They too would have created jobs. Thanks to higher income provided through the amendment to Bill C-26, those people would have been regular consumers in need of food and clothing, and they would have created jobs. The oil multinationals do not hold a monopoly on job creation.

Concerning the agreement with Quebec, I might recall that the Canadian and Quebec Governments had signed the NEED agreement but, unfortunately, that agreement was broken by the Government of Quebec.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I said to the Liberal Member that nothing in that agreement will boost the price of gasoline.

An Hon. Member: It is crystal clear.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): It is crystal clear.

[English]

I say to the Hon. Member that there was some criticism in his province when the change was made in the petroleum compensation charge back in November which resulted in a price rise in gasoline. Did the Hon. Member ever explain to his constituents why the price of gasoline had to go up? Let me