

increased fees on weather reports and dockage, and of course in this Budget the sales tax has been increased again. The price of fuel for fishermen has increased once more. There was not a word about mining or forestry. There was not a word about the major industries in my province of British Columbia.

Except for minor fine tuning on flow-through shares, the Budget virtually ignores the resource sector. Where are those promised tax changes to encourage exploration and development in the mining sector? Where is the proposed increase in funding for the Canada Wildlife Service? Where is the forestry internship program which was promised by the Government?

I see the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) here. I have known him a long time. He represents the centre of the interior forest industry in British Columbia. He must feel sick. He must feel at the least very disturbed. I think if I were he I would say to my constituents: "I'm busy learning my new portfolio here", and I would stay away from Prince George for a while until after the Budget settles down.

There is no reference in the Budget to the oil and gas industry. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources knows—she is sitting here and I am grateful for that—that the price this morning was \$12 U.S. per barrel. She knows that a lot of projects will now be halted and a lot of development will be curtailed, abandoned, suspended. A lot of the supporting industries—the drilling industry, for example—will be in real trouble. Even more, she knows that our objective for self-sufficiency is being put in peril and jeopardy. I would hope that before long she will rise in this House and give us her recent thinking as to how the oil and gas industry should meet—in terms of those jobs she promised us—the current situation of \$12 a barrel U.S.

We had commodity board loans introduced in the Budget. That is an interesting concept. The problem is that very few farmers will qualify. First, they must already have a Farm Credit Corporation mortgage and, second, they must be judged to be in trouble. It does not help if their loan is at a bank. But the Minister says he will give farmers help if they want to get out of farming. For the second Budget in a row, the only farmers who really get a break are those who want to sell out. If they want to stay on the land, neither Budget is of much help to them. The new Budget gives them resettlement expenses, job training. It has the same effect as the capital gains exemption. In other words: "Get off the farm and we will give you a little help, but if you stay on the farm, you are in real trouble".

Cuts to agriculture total \$502 million from 1985-86 to 1990-91. The farmers are also hit by another 1 per cent tax increase in farm fuels. We are still waiting for those agribonds. The Prime Minister was involved in the Prince Albert Charter. I still do not think he knows what an agri-bond is, but he said he was going to give a long term, low interest bond to farmers. That was going to be a dandy.

We are still waiting for a sugar policy. The sugar-beet producers right now are meeting Members of Parliament because that industry in Alberta, in Manitoba and Quebec will

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not survive unless the Government comes up with a national sugar policy.

The *Edmonton Journal* calls this Budget an anti-Alberta Budget because of the neglect of the Minister of Finance for agriculture and energy.

[Translation]

I regret that the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) should be absent, for he is the new hero who will defend our cultural identity.

Of course he must be proud about the \$75 million promised for culture. And apparently all the artists, all the authors, and all the men and women who contribute to give us a genuine Canadian culture are satisfied. But they have a very short memory. Did our artists forget? Did our authors forget?

If we can rely on the Minister's November 1984 statement—\$121 million—the cut-back now amounts to a difference of \$50 million.

So our artists are still \$50 million short.

[English]

Given the ideological bent of this Government, one might say that its left hand giveth and its right hand taketh away, with a vengeance unseen since Biblical times. The Government announced \$300 million for Research and Development but has drastically cut Research Council budgets, as was pointed out by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint Henri-Westmount. We have the spectre of a value-added tax. The Minister and the Government are still contemplating what they call a business transfer tax or a value-added tax. There will be constitutional difficulties.

● (1630)

The Minister said he was looking for ways to increase the revenue base. Then he was politically cynical enough to say to journalists at, I guess, the off-the-record post-budget briefing, that, yes, he contemplated enlarging the tax base, converting it into a business transfer tax, probably the widest net that could ever be cast against Canadian taxpayers, and then a year before the election he could remove the personal surtax of 3 per cent and look good to Canadian taxpayers. He would give them a secret, invisible, slow-moving business transfer tax but immediately remove the 3 per cent surtax. If I ever saw political cynicism, that is it. We will be looking at the discussion paper very carefully indeed when the Minister brings it forward.

With regard to social problems, on page 12 of the Budget Speech the Minister says that in his next Budget he intends to propose further measures to reform our system of social expenditures and related tax provisions.

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Oh, oh! We are going to be watching that one carefully. Here is the sacred trust up for grabs again.