

*Supply*

collapse in grain prices. I should mention parenthetically that the livestock industry is doing fairly well these days, and it is an important part of Alberta agriculture. Yes, indeed, the oil industry is hurting as a result of the collapse in oil prices in 1986. However, the people in the industry know that we have done as well as could be done. If we compare the damage in Calgary with the damage in Houston, for example, we see that in fact we have actually done considerably better, relatively speaking, because of what the Government has done.

If we look at the facts on farm incomes, individual incomes, jobs, and so on in terms of Alberta, we have actually not done bad as a result of the actions of the Government, given the circumstances. If the opposition Parties would be less obstructive and would co-operate in terms of free trade, transportation, and energy policies, we could restore to the west and provide for the west the kind of future which the people and resources out there are capable of producing. If it is not with the co-operation of the Opposition, then it will be in spite of the opposition of the Opposition, because we are determined to do it.

**Mr. Gormley:** Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Minister. However, by way of preface I should like to thank him for his excellent remarks in respect of the motion. As a Saskatchewanian I have a particular interest in what the Opposition was saying about western Canada.

The thrust of my question to the Minister is, can the NDP, in suggesting this motion, be trusted in Alberta and trusted in western Canada?

As a western Canadian one sees three bizarre contradictions among many others in NDP policy. Those of us in the west who have historically been discriminated against by tariff barriers and who want free trade as an economic salvation to western Canada find ourselves blocked by the NDP and its big labour partners in Oshawa, those unions and people who wish to hold western Canada back.

If we look at foreign investment and what it has done for the oil patch in Alberta and in Saskatchewan and the thousands of jobs it has brought, there again the NDP tries to fight jobs and development for western Canada.

A point to those of us who are concerned with the farm economy is that when we have difficulty with the grain handlers we hear the NDP bleating and whining. We have to point out that there are seats on the NDP executive which are occupied by the Canadian Labour Congress. It becomes very difficult to deal with the NDP inconsistencies in labour policy when we look at the grain handlers who have often jeopardized the very life-blood of the Saskatchewan economy.

Given those three bizarre contradictions, my question to the Hon. Minister is, who would trust the NDP in western Canada?

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, only the most gullible. The Hon. Member is absolutely right.

I have often wondered how the Leader of the New Democratic Party manages to straddle the policy issue when he applauds the investment of foreign-owned General Motors in Oshawa and says that it is good for Canada, that it means jobs, but when it comes to investment by a foreign company in the oil industry in Alberta he says that it is terrible for Canada. Why is it that a job with a foreign-owned company in Oshawa is in the national interest, but a job with a foreign-owned oil company in Calgary is somehow not in the national interest? I wonder if some day the socialists could explain that to me in a way that I can tell an employee in Calgary that the Leader of the NDP has a clear view of the country. I would like to be able to do that some day.

As the Hon. Member said, how does one base trust? How does one decide whether to trust? We can do so on one's past performance and one's performance today, but we take a risk on the future.

Referring to their past performance, we know that during the period from 1972 to 1974 when the energy war started David Lewis was there propping up Pierre Trudeau. David Lewis supported the then Minister of Finance who is now Leader of the Opposition in that disastrous Budget of May 8. We know all that. The history is there. We know their performance in the National Energy Program. We know what they did, how they sat by and in fact applauded for all kinds of "national noble reasons" while the west was having the boots put to it.

However, we know that today the west wants free trade and deregulated transportation to address historical problems which have been a bane to development in the west since the formation of the provinces out there. On these two vitally important issues to the west, we know where the NDP is—it is opposed, opposed and opposed. Perhaps it is because Shirley Carr told them to be. I do not know, because it does not make any sense. I do not see how anybody who has concern for the west can be opposed to those two initiatives.

**Mr. Malone:** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Hon. Minister who comes from Calgary Centre. Bearing in mind that members of the NDP, putting on their mask and being great pretenders—

**Mr. Waddell:** I rise on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether you intend to recognize any opposition Members or other party Members in this period.

**Mr. Gormley:** Are you questioning the Speaker?

**Mr. Waddell:** Yes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Yes, I hope to, if time permits.

**Mr. Malone:** I might say parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, that you are a fine gentleman, but it is pretty hard to see people who do not stand up.