

Economic Conditions

trying to obtain delegates to support his leadership, he would know that the rubber industry in our area is in trouble because of the branch plant economy existing there.

B.F. Goodrich and Uniroyal are doing well there now, particularly in Kitchener. The problem is that the parent company, particularly Uniroyal in the United States, is in great difficulty. As a result there is some question as to whether it will recall its capital, resources and production to the States to solve their problems. Kitchener may lose some jobs in the rubber industry and this is a concern.

The second major thing the Leader of the Opposition failed to hear in the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo about the rubber industry is that there has been a radical change. It has moved to the new age of radial tires. Many companies have had to change production to radial tires. Although the companies in Kitchener have made this change, there has been a production problem, the fact being that Michelin has cornered the market because of its brand name. This has created a very competitive situation.

I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that if he is going to talk about economic problems he should get the facts. If he is going to talk about those problems in my riding, after being there for two days, he should get the facts, listen to what the people say about the rubber industry, and resist the temptation to relate those problems in some vague way to world prices for oil. If he is going to relate the problems to oil then he should have come out with a budget which involved "loyalism" in order that his argument might be consistent.

I should like to turn now to the comments of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). Last evening I jotted down some notes. I was very concerned to hear him say that Canadians are living off the rest of the world. I do not think Canadians are living off the rest of the world. I think Canadians are working very hard and doing their very best to be productive in our economy. Those who are not employed are looking for work.

The hon. member for St. John's West said that problems with our economy started with the former Liberal finance minister, Hon. John Turner, at about the time he introduced indexation. I can tell you directly Mr. Speaker, that the people in my riding very much want retention of indexation.

The last comment I should like to make in respect of the remarks of the hon. member for St. John's West is that when he stated that this government had turned its back on the elderly, he was being inconsistent with his budget which had no guaranteed income supplement. Our budget does do something for senior citizens on fixed incomes. In fact, the Liberal government has a history of social concern manifested by every social program on the statute books. We can go through them all; they include unemployment insurance, medicare, old age security, guaranteed income supplement, family allowance, and child tax credits. All of them are Liberal programs.

I find the statement by the former finance minister that this government has turned its back on the elderly rather inconsistent and not really contributory to this debate. His remarks

have no relevance in respect of what we can do toward a short or long-term solution to interest rates.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned that he was concerned that we did not have a national energy program which dealt with self-sufficiency. I was very surprised to hear that, because that is one of the three major aims of the national energy program.

On this side of the House we are dealing with both sides of the energy equation. We are providing incentives so that exploration and development of new oil and gas resources can be found and we are providing means for getting away from the use of oil. This will enable us to be self-sufficient in oil, and that is the only energy area in which we have a shortage. Over all we produce more energy than we consume. We are reducing the demand for oil. We have come through on our election promises of committing ourselves to a pipeline to the maritimes and to Vancouver Island.

We are following a policy of "oif oil" so that we can obtain self-sufficiency by 1990. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he read the national energy policy in order that he can be enlightened as to that part of the program and participate more effectively in debates on topics such as this.

I think at this time of the night I should limit my remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: The main points I wanted to make are these: I am concerned about the doom and gloom scenario which has been created, spreading uncertainty in the Canadian economy that does not need to exist. We are a country with vast national resources; a country that has the labour force, the technology, and the people needed to attain a strong economy with a secure energy future, particularly with the co-operation of government, business, labour and all Canadian people. I should like to end my remarks on that positive point.

• (0650)

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I see it is now ten minutes to seven.

An hon. Member: You can tell the time.

Mr. Darling: I came into this House last night at eight o'clock, so I have been here a considerable time waiting for the opportunity to say a few words. The New Democratic Party and its leader in particular are to be commended for bringing in this very important motion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: It zeros in on the serious economic conditions in Canada today and the exorbitant interest rates. Members of the New Democratic Party are to be commended. In their own minds they are a saintly group. Some are very good friends of mine. They are not good friends politically, of course. I wonder what that great Privy Councillor, who received that well-deserved signal honour to which he certainly was entitled, thinks about when he is rolling around in bed some nights. He