

front, and this is reflected in high unemployment and in turmoil evident among the population of Alberta.

What has been the reaction of the Progressive Conservative Government, Mr. Speaker? First, let me quote from the *Calgary Herald* for January 22, 1987, under a column entitled "Priorities? Really?" It reads:

In comedy, it's timing. In business, it's location. In politics, it's priorities.

Calgary North MP Paul Gagnon has managed to fail on all three counts. One short week after his government rejected the Syncrude loan proposal, the MP returned to his constituency to utter these telling words: "Certainly REAL Women is a No. 1 priority for the Alberta caucus."

With priorities like this, is it any wonder that the Syncrude proposal fell flat?

And with priorities like this, it sure would be a good time to be an opposition candidate in Calgary North.

Those were not my words, Mr. Speaker. That was an article from the *Calgary Herald*.

In an editorial written in *The Edmonton Journal* for January 23, 1987 we read:

It is fortunate that Paul Gagnon doesn't set the agenda for Alberta's 21-member federal Tory caucus.

Pithy issues such as softwood lumber tariffs, federal support for Syncrude, assistance for farmers and polls which show Mulroney's government is on the skids don't furrow his brow. No, the Conservative MP for Calgary North has a more important item on his mind—federal funding for an anti-feminist lobby group.

Other Alberta MPs have expressed their concerns about women in submarines, I believe—or is it gay people in submarines? I cannot quite remember which one it is. That seemed to be one of the priorities affecting a couple of Members of Parliament from Alberta. It seems to me that their priorities are misdirected. They should stick to bread and butter issues.

On May 19, this week I asked the Prime Minister about the Conference Board of Canada's report. I said:

The Conference Board of Canada indicated today that the Alberta economy was one of the worst in the country. It predicted a drop in Real Domestic Product of 1.1 per cent for 1987.

—I ask the Prime Minister to name one positive measure he is prepared to take today to help the sick economy in Alberta.

The Prime Minister replied:

What truly crippled the economy of Alberta was the National Energy Program.

He then proposed that the New Democrats had voted for the National Energy Program. I just want to take a minute to deal with that; first, with respect to what crippled the economy. Yes, the National Energy Program hurt the economy for various reasons. We in the NDP at that time opposed the National Energy Program.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell: That is true. Members can make up myths. I just ask them to listen to me. I was the critic at the time and I will tell them why we opposed it. It is on the record.

We opposed it because the program would shift exploration out of the western sedimentary basin, that is basically Alberta,

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to the frontiers. There was a war between then Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Lougheed over power. The frontiers were controlled by the federal Government, but in Alberta control was by the provincial Government. That was one of the reasons for the program. There are various others. I suggest Members read a book written by Professors Toner and Doern who wrote about the National Energy Program.

With respect to voting, there were 15 Bills. I asked the Library of Parliament to prepare a list; it was prepared on April 11, 1985. The Library wrote:

As requested, please find enclosed a table showing the voting record of the three political parties on fifteen Bills, passed during the First Session of the 32nd Parliament, which implemented the National Energy Program.

The fifteen Bills were the following. The first was Bill C-48 on the offshore exploration. Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Next came a Bill on the excise tax which was passed by a voice vote, then a Bill on the National Energy Board also passed by a voice vote. Then we had Bill C-75 on home insulation, passed by a voice vote. Another home insulation Bill was passed by a voice vote. Bill C-77 on oil substitution was passed by a voice vote. National Energy Board amendments and Bill C-87 was passed by a voice vote. Bill C-101 to increase Petro-Canada's power, the NDP voted for it and the Conservatives voted against it. That is one. Next came Bill C-102 which dealt with the Department of Energy. Both the Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Bill C-103, the Petroleum Administration Act, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Bill C-104 concerning the Petroleum Incentive Program, the PIP grants, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Bill C-105, the Business Corporations Bill, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Bill C-106, the Energy Monitoring Bill, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it. Bill C-107 the Motor Fuel Bill, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it, and Bill C-108, amendments to the National Energy Board, the Conservatives and NDP voted against it.

I would like the Page to take this list and give it to the chairman of the Alberta caucus so he can see the truth.

Actions by the Government have been band-aid actions. For example, when was removal of the Petroleum Gas Revenue Tax done? It was done just before the Pembina by-election. That looked like a reaction to a strong NDP challenge which people recognized in Alberta. Another example is the loan guarantees to Syncrude, largely symbolic, but important for the West. It is important that those guarantees be given even after they were hinted at and almost promised. People were disappointed about that.

Then there is a certain degree of stupidity. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) is spending most of his time on matters that are irrelevant to Alberta. He is bringing Francophones into his department, something which needs to be done, but that is not the top priority. We have an oil crisis in Alberta. The Minister has instituted a \$3 million study on energy. Who is going to do it; apparently a Mr. Tom Kierans, a former associate of the Big Blue Machine in