

The Budget—Mr. Andre

minister, and where was the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

An hon. Member: Out to lunch.

Mr. Andre: This budget will take, out of the funds available for exploration and development in Canada next year, \$3 billion to help make this nation self-sufficient. It would be good for the people over there to learn that Canadian companies do the bulk of the exploration in Canada. Seventy per cent of the exploration and development is done by Canadian companies. Recognize who you are hurting. It is the Canadian companies you are hurting, not the multinationals. Next year we are planning to spend \$8 billion. Because of the kinds of things the minister of energy was saying earlier on, \$1 billion or \$2 billion has already been chopped from that budget and is headed for the U.S., to Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana, and they are taking another \$3 billion right here. So at best you have \$1 billion left for exploring for the oil and gas which we are all going to need. That will be a sixth of what was planned in terms of exploration in this country.

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A study conducted some years ago by a McGill economics professor showed that for every dollar spent on exploration in western Canada the spin-out from that, if you will, the multiplier effect, was at least three to one. A third of that money is spent in eastern Canada for pipes, valves, motors and all those things which cost money when you are exploring for oil and gas. So this little budget has taken out of central Canada, Ontario, at least \$2 billion in economic activity. How many jobs is that? What do the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of State for Economic Development (Mr. Olson) in the other place, propose to use to replace that? How are you going to replace those jobs? Unemployment is already horrendous and with this little act you have already added to it very substantially. And I am talking about the indirect benefit.

You know, there is a common myth in this place that the multinationals are all from the west, so you can get them. I have news for you! The multinationals are headquartered in Toronto—Imperial, Shell, Gulf, Sun and Texaco—and they are the ones who are going to be out of work because they will not need geologists, accountants, secretaries and all those people who work in their offices. They are not big bogeymen from New York or Texas, they are just honest, working citizens. They will not be needed. They will not be needed after this little budget. They will be out in the street. At least those members who cannot be brought to express any concern for the western part of this nation can express some concern from a self-interest point of view. You are going to be hurt as well. You will be hurt by future shortages of oil and gas and more immediately by increased unemployment. As a result of what this energy package has done to the oil and gas industry, record growths in every other sector of our economy will be needed just in order to stay even. The minister projected unemployment at 8.7 per cent next year based on what his friend, the minister of energy, the man who actually wrote the document,

sets out in his policy. Well, I do not think the minister of energy knows what he has done. He does not know what kind of unemployment he has caused by his action. It is pathetic, but he does not know what he has done.

The estimate of the Minister of Finance of 8.7 per cent for unemployment will be much less than the reality unless some corrections are made, and are made quickly.

The Minister of State for Economic Development tells the Liberals in Alberta that he is opposed to section 42. But apparently he was not at the cabinet meeting when it was discussed.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Who is that?

Mr. Andre: The man from the other place, the senator. He is out around the country giving speeches about the great things they are going to do for economic development. He must not have been allowed in the cabinet room when they were discussing the energy package, or the budget either. The minister of state could not possibly have had the gall to give the speech which he gave on October 20 about the great things the government is planning if he had an inkling of what was in this budget. He talks about the need for these eight new pushers in economic development who are to get the country going.

The second item on his list is capital investment. He speaks about the need to attract this money, telling us it will be vital to create a favourable investment climate, first by reducing the inflation rate and, second, by making sure investment is used as productively as possible. How could anybody who knew about this budget make a statement like that in public? It is pathetic.

His third point was energy and he talked about their main concern being security of supply everywhere in Canada. Yet they have killed exploration and development. He talked about energy conservation and substitution for oil. We will need substitution all right because there will not be any oil. He mentioned the use of energy resources to maximize employment. There is the dilly! That little statement the other night is going to maximize unemployment!

Then he went on to talk about the importance of technology. Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister was first elected, Canada spent 1.5 per cent of its gross national product on research and development. And that was deemed very low. A special Senate study concluded we had the worst record of any of the OECD nations. It was pathetic and something had to be done. Today our expenditure on research and development, expressed as a percentage of GNP, amounts to .8 per cent. Ten years ago 1.5 per cent was deemed to be atrocious and the Prime Minister agreed and created a ministry.

I do not know what the other ministers are doing, but the minister responsible for science and technology is off seeing the Queen. He is running around the country shepherding the other minister from Windsor, who cannot be trusted completely with external affairs. He bears the title but they do not let him out alone. If you do believe that science and technology is