

the producing provinces of this country. Coupled with that is the question of the development of technology. That will not be there. In my opinion, the highly skilled advance technology will be developed in some other country, presumably in the United States where the action will take place.

● (1720)

One of the great tragedies of this whole question of the inability to come to a pricing agreement and, flowing from that, the government's unilateral moves on energy pricing and their budget which devoted so much to energy, is the way it will affect Canadian companies. I refer not to the multinational companies, but to companies owned by and controlled by and employing Canadians. I presume most members have received a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) dated November 13 by a person by the name of B. M. McVicar. I wish to quote from his letter because it states far better than any of us in this chamber could describe what is happening to Canadian-owned companies in this country. I quote:

Such budget cuts immediately result in a drop in seismic crew and drilling rig crew and normal procurement activities. If there is a predicted 40 per cent or 200 rig drop there could be a direct lay-off of, say, 5,000 people. Indirect lay-offs amongst logging, mud company and all other ancillary exploration and production service and supply companies could total up to 100 people per rig especially if supply outlets in Ontario and Quebec are counted. Everyone will have slightly different figures for all of this but the order of magnitude will be the same. The gross budget cut dollar effects are not too difficult to extrapolate from the past personal experiences of available knowledgeable people and presumably government statistics. The net effect of your budget is immediate severe Canadian job loss or degradation which will persist and will not only include hard pressed wage earners but also those with a high technical capability for sustaining and increasing our energy capacity. Job loss will occur from Halifax and St. John's through Sarnia and Windsor to Vancouver.

Acting on your government's previous inducements to invest in Canadian industry I took it in good faith and made what was then a prudent and well advised investment, specifically Turbo Resources Oil and Gas Production Funds numbers 5 and 6. This was an act of thrift. My intent was to make provision for retirement. Your budget may have now ruined these investments and with them my retirement savings. How can I ever afford to trust the Canadian tax system to be a reliable inducement to commit investment in Canada versus elsewhere ever again?—

The saddest part of the budget is its effect on Canadian individuals and companies: Ocelot, Tri-Mac, Simmons, Canadian Hunter, Voyageur, Turbo, etc. Individual Canadians with formerly viable and sound productive properties proved reserves, new discovery and a talent for finding hydrocarbon are verging on bankruptcy.

That is the result of what the energy package which the government brought down some time ago is doing to Canadian industry. It has been repeated time and again by other owners of Canadian natural resource industries. In effect, the government has virtually taken a sledgehammer to them without any recourse other than to suffer the consequences and see the industry literally shift to the United States.

There has been talk of western separatism. I do not know whether that is a good phrase. Certainly there is western frustration. There may be a certain element of separatist

feeling in western Canada. I know the frustration level is dangerously high. That has not come about through only one thing. It came about as a result of an election campaign conducted on the basis of lower prices and a turnaround by doing almost directly the opposite. There was a first ministers' conference on the constitution in which it was perceived that the federal government was acting in a very devious manner, leaking memos and doing things not traditionally in the Canadian way.

The fact that closure was imposed on the constitutional resolution is very frustrating and worrisome to people in western Canada, as it must be to all Canadians. The budget and the energy package which we talked about this afternoon is one more building block in the whole foundation and may at some point in time lead to a very serious situation in western Canada.

Westerners are Canadians. There is no question about it and there has never been any doubt about it. I have talked to some people in western Canada who have indicated that they are separatists in their leanings, but they still have a Canadian flag on their desk, in their office or in their home. It is not the same kind of separatism we experienced in terms of the province of Quebec some time ago.

Westerners are Canadians, but they will only be pushed so far. They are sick and tired of the methods being used which result in the culmination of a series of things they do not believe are necessary. They believe that given a proper input into the life of this country, they could make a very good contribution. Fortunately, a country is stronger than any of its politicians or political parties, individually or collectively. That is good for Canada at this time in our history.

In closing, I urge all members before voting to take a hard look at what is being done to the goodwill of this country and a very important industry in it. I think we are moving toward not only severely hurting it, but to dismantling it.

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PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The questions to be raised tomorrow night at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—Canadian National Railways—Intention to abandon track in Nova-Scotia—Government position; the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—Canadian Film Development Corporation—Registration of Michael McCabe—Amount of severance pay; the hon. member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker)—Northern Pipelines—Expropriation of land in British Columbia.