

### Supply

takes a lot of gall for the Liberal Party to introduce such a motion. It particularly takes a lot of gall for the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) to introduce such a motion, given the kind of attention which he and his Liberal colleagues paid to western Canada, in particular the attack in which they engaged upon the West in terms of the imposition of the National Energy Program. I will get to that a little later.

For the record and to be a little objective, I should like to quote some sources other than the expert from Fort Garry, who probably knows as much about the oil patch as I do about flying to the moon.

On September 8, 1986 the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada indicated that it was very encouraged by the announcement of the federal Minister of Energy that the petroleum and gas revenue tax would be eliminated on October 1, 1986. "The removal of the PGRT is a very positive step in a sequence of events that will restore viability and investor confidence in the oil and gas industry", said John Howard, Chairman of IPAC. Those people know what they are talking about.

Also, the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada, which represents the heart and soul of the Canadian energy sector, indicated that on October 30, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) and the Alberta Energy Minister, Neil Webber, confirmed a major milestone in the deregulation of the natural gas industry in Canada. It indicated that natural gas price decontrol would proceed on November 1, 1986, and went on to outline the importance of that particular initiative.

The Petroleum Resources Communications Foundation also indicated that the announcement of the Minister of Energy that the PGRT would be gone, effective October 1, was most positive, and that the decision would add about \$45 million per month to the industry's reinvestment.

I could talk about federal government procurement. The Hon. Member talked about the Liberal record in that regard. Federal government procurement between the fall of 1984 when we assumed office until October of this year increased by almost 20 per cent. The fact of the matter is that improvements are taking place. Much more needs to be done. We recognize that there are difficulties in the energy sector. We recognize that there are difficulties in the agricultural sector.

However, I repeat that the gall of the Liberals in bringing forth this motion as experts on the subject is appalling. Their vindictive policies, hodgepodge of contradictions, and dead-end solutions, supported by the NDP, left the country a legacy of failure and broken dreams. They left the country in a state of anxiety and despair. They left the country divided, a country where the regions felt they were attacked, not supported by the central Government, and a country which was floundering and reeling from crippling interest rates, weak growth, massive unemployment, a burdensome debt, a weak dollar, and a lack of business and investor confidence. That is the kind of legacy

the Liberals left for western Canada, and that is what we are trying to correct.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It was the Liberal Government and that western Member who imposed the National Energy Program, the natural gas and gas liquids tax, the incremental oil revenue tax, the PGRT, the oil export tax, the Canadian ownership service charge, the petroleum compensation charge, and there may have been others which I may not remember. However, that myriad of taxes stole or extracted \$60 billion from western Canada, from Alberta in particular, and he had the gall to say that we were not looking after the West. We have cut that off. In the last two years they were in office, they extracted \$9.25 billion from the Province of Alberta under these taxes. Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? They are all gone now; they are not there any more.

• (1710)

With the phase-out of the PGRT in 1986 the federal Government will get some \$500 million from the energy industry. With the complete phase-out, it will be next to nothing. That is what we have been doing. That is what we have to do. The Liberal Government imposed the 25 per cent retroactive back-in. What did this do to the oil industry?

The Hon. Member is talking about a loss of 25,000 jobs. Yes, indeed, we are very concerned about that. But do you know what this man-made Liberal political crisis did to western Canada, Mr. Speaker? There was a loss of 50,000 jobs and half of the oil rigs left the country and went south of the border. Yes, the Liberals ripped \$60 billion off the Province of Alberta. It was they who drove investment from Canada, and in 150 days after the National Energy Program it was they who caused the loss of 35,000 jobs. As a result of the National Energy Program, \$10.2 billion of direct capital investment left Canada. In 1981, that was made up of \$5.3 billion in foreign capital and \$4.9 billion in domestic capital. If that \$10.2 billion had stayed in Canada and had been invested here, it would have created 409,000 jobs. That is the situation we inherited.

It was the Liberal Government that imposed upon Canada the Foreign Investment Review Agency, which also contributed to de-investment in Canada. It was that group of gangsters over there who managed to allow interest rates to creep up to 22.75 per cent. That is what the prime rate was in August, 1981. That hurt farmers, small businessmen, the oil sector, everyone.

This Member now poses as the great saviour of western Canada. I have in my hand a copy of the Winnipeg paper, *The Tribune*, for Wednesday, March 19, 1980. It reads:

Axworthy aims to make Government a force in West.

He said that he was going to spell out a clear industrial strategy for the West in the next four years. Some strategy, Mr. Speaker. The strategy was to transfer billions of dollars