

Petroleum Incentives Program Act

because the same kind of attitude is being expressed toward the Province of Alberta by the administration as is being expressed by it toward the Province of Newfoundland.

We have a fiscal regime that is a recipe for inaction in the event of a made-in-Canada oil industry. Canadian companies operate in Newfoundland and those same companies operate in Alberta. Their ability to operate in Newfoundland, whether they make or lose money, impacts on their ability to make investments in more traditional kinds of exploration in Alberta.

Canadian oil companies are being destroyed because this administration has a non-interventionist policy at a time when the industry is very weak and susceptible to takeover by American concerns. The net result for Newfoundland is a denial of promise, a denial of opportunity, a denial of potential and a loss of hope for the future. In the case of Alberta, it is a loss of tangible jobs that already exist, not promised jobs. It is a loss of the backbone of the economy that keeps the whole fabric of Alberta society together.

As I see the promise of my province destroyed, I feel great empathy for those people in Alberta who are not losing just promises but are losing their bread and butter. There has been not a whimper, not a peep and not an indication on the part of the administration that it is going to intervene in any way, shape or form beyond slapping the Premier of Alberta on the wrist.

In desperation and frustration, because he sees no action taken on the part of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Premier of Alberta, called Sheikh Yamani of Saudi Arabia. What does it tell us when the Premier of one of Canada's provinces is ready to jump into bed with OPEC and is ready to join a cabal in desperation to try to stop the outflow of economic blood from his province? What does it tell us about the leadership at the federal level when the Premier of Alberta, a member of the Conservative Party, presumably a personal friend of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, gets on the phone to Sheikh Yamani Looking for answers to problems in Alberta, answers that he cannot find in Ottawa? The imagery is incredible.

Mrs. Maily: The price of oil is too low, that's what it means.

Mr. Tobin: The Hon. Member opposite says it means that Premier Getty has not got a good mind, if that is what he does.

[Translation]

Mrs. Maily: Mr. Speaker, this is definitely not what I said and he knows it.

[English]

Mr. Tobin: I'm not sure what she said. Maybe I misheard it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. There will be questions and comments after the very personable and popular Member finishes speaking.

Mr. Tobin: I am not sure what she said. It was another unintelligible sound.

Mr. Rossi: She's a dumb dodo.

Mr. Tobin: When a premier finds it necessary during a time of renewed federalism, as advertised by the Prime Minister, to take his problems to Saudi Arabia and tries to find sympathy, empathy or understanding for his difficulties in Saudi Arabia, when he goes to the heart of OPEC, a cartel operated in a despicable manner that is desperately trying to find solutions to the problems it has caused for itself, rather than picking up the phone to talk to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) who comes from Alberta, rather than talking to the Prime Minister who claims to have brought the West into Confederation, rather than talking to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who comes from British Columbia, that surely is an indication that we have a serious problem. All we are hearing from the Government is that free market forces shall dictate.

Let me say to Government Members that in their obsessive, doctrinaire approach to the lack of regulation and lack of management of the oil and gas industry, they are destroying the promise and potential of future generations of Canadians, particularly those in some of the poorest parts of this country. I speak in particular of Newfoundland. The Government has broken faith.

The Government signed an Atlantic Accord that turns out to be nothing more than a shallow, farcical bit of theatre designed for an election campaign that occurred in Newfoundland a year ago. The people of Newfoundland shall not forget. The people of Newfoundland shall not forgive. Before the last act of this sorry play has been presented to a desperate people, the Government shall rue the day it took its orders from the barons who occupy the ivory towers of New York and Holland rather than those people who are trying to build a Canadian oil industry in Canada.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the Hon. Member and I would like to ask him one question. Does he think we should keep the PIP grants or not?

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I come from a province where there is a very simple philosophy. When you give your word, Mr. Speaker, when you say to somebody: "I shall be there, I shall do something", then, providing you have legs to walk with and hands to work with and tongue to speak with, you deliver. In my province, it does not take an Act of legislation, a recording on tape, an announcement in the House of Commons or something cast in blood or stone, it simply takes one's word. In the case of the Government, its word has been cast in stone, said in the House of Commons, recorded on television and published in the newspapers, but it has all been shattered, crushed and thrown away like a word that was never seriously given at all.

Do we keep the PIP grants? Yes, the Government of Canada made a commitment upon which thousands of people rested some hope for the future, upon which thousands of