

ENERGY

CANADA EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Mr. Bob Porter (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Edmonton the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) announced the Canadian Exploration and Development Program. While all energy companies will benefit, it is the hundreds of companies in the service sector and the smaller oil and gas producers that will benefit most from this program. An important feature is the provision to allow oil and gas companies to offer flow-through shares which will attract capital and offer Canadians an opportunity to invest in exploration and development in this country.

• (1410)

The drilling of 2,000 wells will result in 4,500 direct jobs and over 12,000 jobs in the service and supply sectors. While the immediate benefits are obvious, it is vital that the expertise in manpower and technology that Canada's energy sector has developed over the past four decades be maintained. This announcement should not be considered a short-term solution but an investment in the future security of energy resources for the benefit of all Canadians.

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AGRICULTURE

POTATO INSPECTION FEES

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Prince Edward Island Legislature unanimously passed a resolution condemning the federal Government's new inspection fees on potato exports. Agriculture Canada intends to operate its inspection programs on a full cost-recovery basis. Under this plan, potato inspection fees will rise from 3 cents per hundredweight this year to 15 cents per hundredweight by 1990.

Prince Edward Island potato growers export 90 per cent of their crop and one of their major markets is Ontario. With these extra costs, the exports will not be able to compete with Ontario-grown potatoes which are not subject to those fees. This is actually a tariff that Prince Edward Island potato producers must pay in order to market their products. In effect, the fees will act as a barrier to interprovincial trade.

Why does the Government continue to treat potato producers with utter contempt? I call upon the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) to cancel these unfair fees now.

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HOUSING

PUBLIC LOAN INSURANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I spoke in the House last week to point out that the Bank of Canada rate of 7.14 per cent was the lowest it has been in 14 years. This trend creates record low mortgage rates enabling young couples to buy homes.

Two days ago the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced significant changes in public loan insurance which will also encourage tenants to buy homes. Starting May 1, 1987, the federal Government will increase its guarantees to mortgage lenders accepting lower down payments. For example, the minimum down payment for a \$150,000 home will decrease from \$22,000 to \$7,500.

For the first time, insurance will be provided for second mortgages to buy a home or to fund renovations. As well, borrowers will now be able to transfer RRSP holdings into their own second mortgages. The Canadian Real Estate Association is meeting in Ottawa today and its President, Robert Pedler, agrees that these positive changes demonstrate a recognition of and sensitivity to the changes taking place in the market-place.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

PROCEEDINGS IN MANITOBA LEGISLATURE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Conservative MLAs have again proven themselves to be totally insensitive to native issues. Although they have had time to debate the Manitoba Budget since its introduction, the Conservative Leader late last night chose to stage a petty grandstanding bell-ringing session. Because of this deliberate delay, Premier Pawley and the relevant Ministers could not make it to the First Ministers' Conference last night. They were unable to be here to speak on a very important issue because of petty politics in Manitoba.

It is very important that on this extremely important issue, politicians of all stripes work together. Manitoba Tories have proven time after time that they will never let a greater dream interfere with lesser politics.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

CRITICISM OF MANITOBA BUDGET'S PROVISIONS

Mr. Léo Duguay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Manitoba has complained bitterly about, to use the Premier's words, the federal Government's mechanical pursuit of deficit reduction no matter what is gobbled up in the