

*The Address—Miss Carney*

House are more fortunate than the Opposition Members when it comes to using taxpayers' money.

Returning to the minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that he cannot talk about his energy policy because he cannot talk his way out of the devastation that the National Energy Program has caused this country. It has lost jobs throughout western Canada and in Ontario and Quebec. He cannot talk about all of the orders that they have lost in Ontario and Quebec because the energy industry in parts of the country has been shut down.

For the last few weeks I have been crossing the country speaking with people in the energy industry, provincial premiers, people in the industry and workers who have lost their jobs. I have seen first hand what the Minister does not talk about. That is the small towns which have been so badly hit, the new shopping centres which have bankruptcy and store closing signs in their windows, and the empty houses that are standing abandoned or unsold because the energy boom was snuffed out by this Liberal Government. I have spoken with people who have lost their homes and lost their businesses through the activity of this Government. I have also spoken to industry. The Minister failed to discuss the impact of his policies on the drilling industry, which is one of the ones which is truly Canadian. If you want to look at a segment of the oil patch which is truly Canadian, it is the drilling industry. We have developed a lot of ability to build our own equipment and our own expertise. The drilling contractors I met with told me that in 1983, 210 rigs were drilling out of an available western Canadian fleet of 463. This is an average utilization of only 45.4 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the rate of utilization required to break even is 55 per cent. These people have been operating under those low levels of utilization now for two or three years. I was struck by a comment one of these people made as we sat around the table. He was talking about how the industry had been worn so much into the ground that they were having to cannibalize some of their rigs. He said to me, "We are a proud industry and we don't like to do that". The reason they have to do that can be laid on the doorstep of the Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources.

I talked to the premiers about the energy wars that were inflicted on the country by the actions of the Minister with the National Energy Program. While we discussed the issues that can separate a federal Conservative Government and some of the provincial Conservative Governments, which are tough issues which will not be easily resolved, we have unanimous agreement that at least when a Conservative Government sits down at the table with the premiers it will be without the knowledge that one level of Government in this country is trying to savage the other, which is the case under the present regime.

In addition to the fact that the Minister said very little about energy policy today, I would like to point out that the Throne Speech said very little regarding energy. It said:

Energy policy must continue to command the attention of Canadians. The framework for achieving our national goals of energy self-sufficiency and increased Canadian ownership was put in place with the passage of the National Energy Program. It now forms an integral part of the long-term planning of

energy companies, large and small. Petroleum Incentive Payments, in particular, encourage both new sources of supply and enhanced Canadian ownership. The Government will continue its strong commitment to the NEP in order to ensure that our goals are reached.

That of course, Mr. Speaker, is hogwash. If there is one area where the National Energy Program has totally misfired it is in seeking the three goals stated. I will be discussing what the Auditor General has to say about that in a moment. The goal of self-sufficiency has been retarded by this Government simply because exploration activity has been diverted from those areas of the country where we know we have oil and gas reserves and where we have resources like the tar sands. It has been diverted, at great costs, to areas of the country where we do not know whether we have oil and gas reserves. That slippage of time has meant that the whole goal of self-sufficiency has been retarded.

In terms of Canadianization, as I described earlier in my discussion with regard to the drilling contractors and some of the other Canadian supply and service companies, the NEP has hammered the Canadian side of the industry. It is well known that the people who have benefited the most from the NEP have been the multinationals. I also want to point out that, in terms of the goal of fairness, the NEP has been very unfair. It has pitted region against region. It has hurt industries. In terms of some of the component parts like the back-in, it truly has had an adverse effect on investment climate, ownership and other aspects which we consider when we talk about fairness.

What the Minister did say today was limited to a few elements. He said he was going to talk about the confiscation under the NEP, but in fact he did not talk about it. He says that the Opposition parties do not understand the back-in. Well we do all too clearly, Mr. Speaker. We understand that it is straightforward confiscation. I often use the example of a lottery. What the Government is saying there is the same as if it said to Canadians, "You go and buy five lottery tickets. If you win on one lottery ticket we will give you 25 cents and we will take 25 per cent of the pot. We will not pay you for the four that you bought on which you did not win, but we want a share of what you did win, without paying all the costs involved". He did not discuss that. He talked about the back-in in terms of Newfoundland. He talked about the back-in in terms of Nova Scotia, but he failed to say that the back-in provision in NWT and where it applies in the Yukon has very little to do with Canadian control and a lot to do with the desire of the Minister and his Department to run northern Canada under the thumb of the bureaucrats in Ottawa. That is one of the most sensitive points in northern Canada today. Seeing their resources, their lands and all their activities again run out of Ottawa instead of out of the Territories or out of the industry is a very sore point indeed.

The Minister talked about PIP. He talked about superdepletion being an unfair way of rewarding companies or as a tax incentive program for companies. We have more imagination than that, Mr. Speaker. It is correct that the old program introduced by the Liberal Government did not allow Canadian companies to participate, but that is a problem of lack of