

Supply

The Parties who are not in opposition drove \$56 billion out of Alberta during the course of the National Energy Program, and they stand here today and complain that the Alberta Government is not looking after medicare in the way that it ought to. Well, had they left that \$56 billion in the western Canada economy, the Alberta Government certainly would look after the needs of medicare.

They say that we are not doing enough for agriculture. Again, had the \$56 billion that was taken out by the NDP and the Liberals been left in that economy, a lot more could be done.

I see that my time is up, Mr. Speaker. I have a great deal more that I would like to say, both in terms of what the New Democratic Party is and what we have done for the west. I shall conclude for now, but Canadians will be hearing more from me.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom), on a question or comment.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the comments of my hon. friend from Crowfoot are very tough. It seems to me that he is being very critical of his fellow Albertans, who are turning in droves to the New Democratic Party. They have seen how the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada has sold out western Canada. They have seen a Government which has not been very honest in terms of how it is perceived in western Canada. They have seen a Government which is doing everything to reward its friends through patronage and through cronyism in central Canada. They are objecting to that in the west.

• (1630)

The best evidence I have of that is the election of all those New Democrats in Edmonton in the last provincial election. There were 16 in Alberta. Most of them were in Edmonton. There is also the fact that the by-election in Pembina was almost lost at the federal level. A majority of some 30,000 went down to some 200. This is why more ordinary Albertans are voting for the people's Party. They are not voting for the big money Party in central Canada, the Tories; they are voting for the people's Party, the New Democratic Party of Canada. That is why the Tories are terrified of the NDP.

We had to bring forward this motion today because of the 21 silent Conservatives from Alberta; they are called "the Silent 21". In fact, I have received calls in my office saying "the Silent 21 will not raise this question. Will you guys raise it for us?"

The Hon. Member is a good friend of mine and a distinguished Albertan. He says that he has all kinds of sources and contacts. I have a very simple question for him. What will the western diversification initiative do for ordinary Albertans?

We have had one very competent Conservative Member of Parliament, the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona

(Mr. Kilgour), denounce the Conservative Party because it does not stand up for western Canada. He had the courage of his convictions. This is why he has received such a positive response from his constituents in Edmonton. They see him as the one exception to the "Silent 21". One reason he denounced his Party was that there was no action in the area of western diversification.

What will the western diversification initiative do for ordinary Albertans? The Hon. Member may not know much about it. I have lots of government documents—they are leaked to me all the time—on western diversification. When I speak later, I will reveal some of the contents of them. Since the answer is not in all the documents I have, I want to know what the western diversification initiative will mean to ordinary Albertans.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I find it amusing that a Member would pretend for a moment that he has all kinds of leaked documents but would find it necessary to ask questions about substance.

He started out in his preamble by saying that we had done nothing for western Canada. The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) has great affinity for the pool system in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. I should like to read from the Alberta *Wheat Pool Budget* as follows:

There's no denying that Canadian farmers have been receiving more public support than ever before. Last year Alberta producers received \$470 million from three major support programs alone. In total about 17 per cent of total farm cash receipts came from government support programs in 1986 . . .

These tremendous income declines would have caused a total collapse of western Canadian agriculture if the government support had been withheld.

Let us take a look at the enormous amount of money we have given. We must bear in mind that the big spenders who preceded us left us in a situation where one out of every three tax dollars is used to pay for interest on the accumulated debt. For the Hon. Member to pretend that we have done nothing raises the great pretention of the NDP, the "let's pretend" Party.

The truth is—and it is the statistic for which I was looking earlier—that total net farm income was up 176 per cent in 1986 over 1985. It is the grain sector that is down.

The Hon. Member asks what we will do. The truth of the matter is that we must put forth support to retain the agricultural sector until the basic fundamentals are looked after. In part the Liberals must share the blame. It started in the 1972 Tokyo Round of the Economic Summit when emphasis was not put upon agriculture. That changed in 1985 when the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made sure that agriculture was forced to the top of the agenda in Tokyo.

It was followed up by the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) at Punta del Este, Uruguay, when he forced agriculture on to the primary agenda of the GATT at Geneva.

The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville knows that just this week OECD countries said that the Canadians were right.