

S.O. 21

Labour, Employment and Immigration. The problems discussed in the Committee on Transport are probably less embarrassing politically than those on the agenda of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

Mr. Speaker, this goes to show there is a wide gap between the Progressive Conservative Party's so-called resolve to govern by consensus and what is actually happening.

* * *

[English]

ENERGY

WESTERN ACCORD—REMOVAL OF OIL INDUSTRY TAXES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, Ontario's Deputy Energy Minister, Duncan Allan, was quoted this morning as having said that he fears the federal Government "gave away the store", and is exhibiting "a lot of faith" that the oil industry won't simply take its money and run, under the Western Accord. Those are his words, not mine. I believe that at the minimum we should have a statement from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and Premier Miller on the kind of language which the Deputy Energy Minister of Ontario used.

The Conservative's new energy policy removes five federal taxes on the oil industry, at a cost to the federal Treasury of \$1 billion over the next two years. There is another \$1.4 billion deficit in the oil import subsidy account. When it comes to oil companies, clearly the federal deficit is no problem. It is only a problem for ordinary Canadians whose programs and benefits must be cut back.

We have seen the catch phrases which have been used by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) before. Catch phrases such as "engine of economic growth", "market-oriented prices", and "end to discriminatory taxes" have been used. I figured out where I had seen those catch phrases. I have seen them in the Gulf advertisements on television and in the newspapers in the last four years.

Why would a Government give a conservative company like Texaco such a windfall? It is a disastrous policy. I would suggest three ways to salvage it. One, Premier Miller must insist that Clause 9 of the agreement on consumer protection must be beefed up. One could sail a super tanker through that clause. Two, the Petroleum Monitoring Agency should be given more power to monitor in the upstream and downstream—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his time has expired.

[Translation]

LABOUR

NEED TO MAKE RADICAL CHANGES TO EXISTING LEGISLATION

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, does the right to work exist in 1985? We live in a society governed by laws that often put constraints on that fundamental freedom that is the right of the citizens of this country to engage in employment.

As far as employment is concerned, I am astonished at the number of rules and regulations. In Quebec, work permits, qualification cards and OCQ regulations often penalize large numbers of workers. Our democratic institutions leave very little room for invention, creativity, freedom of choice and the right to work. I am convinced that thanks to technological change, employment will increase as a result of the creativity and energy of the individual.

Canadians and Canadian businesses must know they cannot constantly live off government handouts. I am sure there is a majority that wants to be free to go on working and developing their skills. Interventionism is not a panacea. We must reduce Government intervention in the lives and economic activities of Canadians. Government administration today is often too complex to be effective.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, thousands of workers are anxious to see drastic changes in our present legislation so that they can work freely without constraints. As far as federal-provincial relations are concerned, I suggest taking down the barriers that are preventing my constituents and Quebecers and Canadians in general from working where they want to work.

* * *

● (1410)

[English]

SOCIAL SECURITY

UNIVERSALITY UPHELD

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative Party has long been the champion of effective and beneficial social programs. The Conservative Government under John Diefenbaker introduced some of the most progressive social assistance legislation in Canadian history. To quote the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong): "Mr. Diefenbaker's concern for the unfortunate, the weak, and minorities should be a reminder in future years to Members of Parliament and Governments yet to come." Yes, it is this Party and, indeed, this Government, which truly care about all Canadians.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) wrote in his consultation paper on child and elderly benefits that the concept of universality is a keystone of our social safety net. Its integrity must not and will not be called into question.