

in central Canada. I speak to you now as an Albertan. I speak to you as one who is worried about the state of our country. I speak to you as one who is very concerned about the ammunition being given the western separatist movement.

When separatism and the flame of separatism was burning so brightly in the province of Quebec—I do not say it is extinguished now—in the past couple of years when the situation reached an extreme point in the province of Quebec, members here from Alberta, and many of our colleagues and associates in western Canada, spoke out for Quebec. We did everything we could to send a message to Quebec. Some of us went there personally. I held a national unity rally in Edmonton, which attracted a number of people from this part of the country, in order to send a message to Quebec. Why did we all do these things? We were beginning to understand deeply the *retourne à vie* in that province. I ask members from central Canada who are here tonight, will they do the same to understand the situation in western Canada? Will the federal government, which gave Quebec members of Parliament the tools to fight separatism in Quebec, now turn around and give western Canadian members the tools to fight separatism in western Canada? I ask that very seriously.

What we are being given are policies which are not bringing people together but policies which are further dividing us. We have had members of the Liberal party come into Alberta and other parts of western Canada recently. I have heard of them being there and I have talked with people who have talked with them. I must tell you in all frankness, the image being left by Liberal members, including cabinet ministers, is that they are going to talk, sell, but not listen.

I say to hon. members opposite that if they will accept with reasonable objectivity the sentiments being expressed by myself at this moment, and by others in many walks of life who feel just as strongly about holding this country together, and if you will from your advantageous position today communicate with your government leaders, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), breaking through that shell we will make some progress.

The other day the Prime Minister was informed on the floor of the House about oil rigs leaving the country. You and I know that he dismissed that. The fact of the matter is that there are 376 drilling rigs on the way to the United States. Some 60 have left already. This represents 22,500 jobs, not just in Alberta but throughout Canada, including central Canada. This is the result of a failure to get together on a comprehensive energy agreement that would unlock the Alsands, Cold Lake and Judy Creek major oil developments waiting to be developed on behalf of all Canadians.

We in the west do not understand why this country is willing to buy oil from Saudi Arabia and Mexico, cheap crude at that, at world prices when it will not pay, not the world price, not even up to 70 per cent, but just 40 per cent of the world price. What kind of an economist would you have to be to be able to rationalize or understand this situation? Western Canadians

### *Economic Conditions*

do not understand it. This is an affront to us. It is an affront that the Canadian government will solve its energy problems by buying more offshore oil now at a \$1 million a day increase because of the latest OPEC price increases, on top of the \$4 billion we are paying annually, when it will not pull out all the stops and do everything possible to get an energy agreement on behalf of all Canadians and get jobs for Canadians throughout this country. That is why I am devastated. There is no need for this.

Members of the opposition always criticize. Hon. members on this side have put forward tonight a host not only of ideas but also of policies. This party is well on record. The Alberta government is well on record as seeking the precise formula for a fair, equitable and comprehensive energy agreement.

● (0530)

**Mr. McDermid:** For Canadians, not for Saudi Arabia.

**Mr. Roche:** It is not just a narrow Albertan viewpoint I am trying to give the House. I am giving a perspective from Alberta but one which has national scope. It is for the well-being of our whole country. Let us unlock the process and get it started again. Let there be some Liberal member tonight who will stand up in this House and say to the government that it is right on behalf of Canada, and in the face of the emergency economic situation we have, to push and to do everything possible. I can tell hon. members that the response in Alberta would be positive. The people of Alberta do not want to separate.

With my colleagues, I am doing everything I can to cool that separatist movement out there. The newspaper I have in my hand says, "Albertans believe in a United Canada too." We have to take out ads to tell people that now. Why should that be? I ask hon. members opposite to help us by giving us some of the tools which we gave members from central Canada and particularly members from Quebec in the time of their crisis. I make my plea not just for Alberta. I make it for the whole of Canada which all of us here tonight represent.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roche:** Mr. Speaker, if you have another minute for me, I want to close on this note. There is a lot to be said about the role of Canada, and much has been said here domestically about the opportunities we ought to be taking to advance our economy. I believe that in the world community today there is a very special role for Canada. Reference was made to the North-South task force a few speeches ago. The North-South task force reported this week right here in Parliament. Its report is fairly extensive and I will not go into it now, but its essence was that Canada has a real role to play in helping to establish economic stability in the world. Indeed, Canada has an obligation to do that. We talk in that report about Canada's role in improving facilities in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to get funds recycled out of the OPEC countries and into the oil-importing and least developed countries which contain millions of people who severely lack basic human needs.