

The Budget—Mr. Cardiff

Just to the east of Formosa lie large gravel deposits that will in future make the village of Mildmay a major shipment centre and supplier of central Ontario's sand and gravel. In the northwest the riding rubs up against Kincardine and the Douglas Point nuclear power station. This area is now growing a new energy-efficient greenhousing industry, using the waste heat from the power plant, and in future the same location will attract other energy-consuming industries. In the southwest lies the Great Lakes port of Goderich, which not only ships grain to the world but is also a producer of widely exported road machinery, and is home to a mining operation that exports salt to the central markets of the United States through Chicago. This mine is now undergoing an expansion worth some \$37 million, without a penny of federal assistance.

Elsewhere, in other small towns of the riding, small businesses struggle to survive or to become big businesses, producing farm equipment, auto parts, earthmoving machinery, textiles, and sailing craft. For these industries the federal government has done little. They survive, if they do, by the personal initiative of the people who work in them.

The federal government's most notable initiative since the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) took office was to close down the Clinton airbase, which had been of major importance to the local economy, leaving behind nothing but empty buildings which now house some of the small businesses that have sprung from the people of the district.

The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that although the economy of my riding has prospered on its agricultural base, we have paid a price. We have been unable to develop and maintain a level of industry which could keep all our sons and daughters employed, and over the years a great many of them have gone elsewhere seeking a livelihood. As one result we in Huron-Bruce have always had strong links of kinship with the west. There have been migrations from our area to the west since the 1880s, first to open up the farmlands, and more recently to work in the cities and in the oil and gas fields.

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We still have a vigorous economy, but we have remained vigorous by adapting and by exporting our surplus population to the cities of Ontario and to the west. This is our history. This government has not made it easy for us to develop our own industrial base, but we have never expected to thrive because the federal government grabbed someone else's resources for us. It would be far better for us if this government concentrated on helping us develop what we have so we can continue to flourish.

A couple of weeks ago the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) stood in this House and told us about his own trip west long ago on the harvest excursion. That was a feature of life for which many of our farmers were grateful during the lean times. In cash-hungry times the west was a source of money by which many Ontario farming families survived. More recently, many of our sons and daughters have turned to the west and found a new home there without forgetting their old one. It is this kind of movement and link which helps

create Canada's identity and strength. The links between farmers in Ontario and the west are strong. In the beef industry they get progressively stronger. No farmer who has seen his sons grow up and set up on their own believes you can have a happy family by trying to run your sons' operations as if they were yours.

We recognize that the west has never seriously asked the rest of Canada to pay world prices for oil and gas, as our American customers do. What the west has asked for is serious negotiation of fair prices and a chance to promote its own development. Westerners do not want a federal fund for western development because it is just an attempt to use their own money to tell them how to run their own development.

I do not suggest for a moment that people in my riding, or anywhere else in Ontario, like large increases in oil and gas prices. But they accept increases as necessary to promote conservation, industrial efficiency, and further development of our own resources. What they do not like, and what I hope they will not accept, is a federal government grab for the resources of any province or combination of provinces, so that the federal government can save itself from its own spending disasters.

Let me be clear on this, Mr. Speaker. All Canadians know by now what the people of my riding knew when they voted to accept the program of the Crosbie budget, namely, that the price of our fuels must rise. I think the vast majority of Canadians agree on the principle that Canadians should not have to pay world prices. I believe the great majority of westerners agree with that principle. But before the federal government tries to grab the resources of any province, I think most Canadians would like to see the government get its own financial house in order, without dropping a billion dollars here, and adding \$2.7 billion to the debt there, resulting in a national debt now totalling \$107 billion, with this year's interest alone at \$1,390 per taxpayer.

In this budget we are presented with the picture of a federal government which has shown no clear evidence that it intended to negotiate seriously with the producing provinces on energy pricing. Instead, it is attempting to take matters into its own hands, deepening the divisions within the country. After all its efforts, energy prices are higher than those contained in the Crosbie budget, which hon. members over there said were too high. For utter bungling, Mr. Speaker, the government's management of energy pricing is equalled only by the cynicism of the constitutional resolution it rammed through the House two weeks ago. That measure so angered the provinces that six of them are taking the government to court. So that the Canadian people would not find out how far the government's constitutional proposal differed from what they said it was, the government made sure the constitutional proposals could not be amended in this House. They invoked closure so that the elected representatives of the people were prevented from discussing it here in the Parliament of Canada, before the debate had scarcely begun. All of this was accompanied by a manipulative advertising campaign designed to make Canadians believe the government was bringing home our constitu-