

Supply

that instead of just relying on small oil companies we should have taken over Imperial Oil and started off making Petro-Canada the biggest oil company in this country. I am sure that will be my objective and that of my Party, and I know my constituents are behind me on that.

Mr. Scowen: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: The Hon. Member for Mackenzie (Mr. Scowen) does not like that. I suppose he is quivering, I am not sure. Even his Conservative Premier of Saskatchewan has not dismantled the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. His Conservative Premier has not dismantled Saskoil, a Crown Corporation. His Premier has not privatized the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Gagnon: He is selling shares of Saskoil.

Mr. Nystrom: He is selling some shares of Saskoil, but the Government retains control with the majority of the shares. But it has not privatized at all the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation, and a number of other Crown corporations, because they are popular. The people of Saskatchewan know that this is a way of keeping Saskatchewan money in Saskatchewan for our future. It is only with a Conservative Government that that kind of thing has started to go astray.

We now have in our province the biggest deficit we have ever had in the history of our province. The Hon. Member for Mackenzie himself is even embarrassed at times to be a Conservative because of that massive deficit. That is also happening in Alberta. That is why Albertans are massively turning away from the Conservative Party and looking at the NDP, because they know who is speaking for Alberta. They know the Conservative Members speak for big oil in Alberta, but they want to know who is speaking for the average Albertan.

In a Pembina by-election they said by the thousands that the New Democratic Party is speaking for ordinary Albertans and they said in the Alberta election last year that the NDP is speaking for ordinary Albertans. The Progressive Conservative Members from Alberta, Mr. Speaker, know that to be the case, and that is why they are starting to panic, as evidenced by their recent strategy meetings in respect of the NDP threat, this great socialist threat. They are actually holding meetings on it. They are starting to panic. They know that their voters are being turned off.

• (1730)

One of their Members had the courage to speak out, the Member for Edmonton—Strathcona. I have here an article from *The Globe and Mail* of April 25 last headed: "Disgruntled Tory Kilgour buoyed by voters' support". Let me read just a little from that article. I know that Albertans agree with the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona. It reads:

Disaffected Progressive Conservative David Kilgour said yesterday that a one-day visit to his south Edmonton riding had convinced him that he had done the

right thing when he spoke out three weeks ago about Western alienation and corruption in the federal Government.

Let me remind Hon. Members that this is David Kilgour speaking, not Lorne Nystrom. I did not refer to corruption; I am merely repeating what he is reported to have said. I quote further:

"When you have a clear conscience and the support of your constituency, well, you can't ask for more than that," the Edmonton—Strathcona MP said before returning to Ottawa last night. "I feel completely vindicated."

More than 1,000 calls and hundreds of letters of support had been received and they were still coming in. Meetings with constituents in his riding office and in restaurants in Edmonton had also been overwhelmingly supportive, he said.

"I've only been saying what Canadians are saying across the country," said Mr. Kilgour, who was first elected to Parliament in 1979. "We want a clean, open government and help for Alberta from our brothers."

That is a Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament saying publicly, Mr. Speaker, what I know many Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament feel privately. That is why I say: Why doesn't this silent block of Conservative MPs speak out? Who speaks for Alberta, other than the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona, and of course you, Sir, who sits in the chair?

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that we in the New Democratic Party felt obliged to introduce a motion highlighting the fact that the economy that is in the most trouble in this country is that of the Province of Alberta, according to the Conference Board of Canada.

Albertans are alienated from this Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). They are really wondering whether or not they can trust this Prime Minister. They see a Prime Minister who, as the Member for Edmonton—Strathcona has said, is knee deep in patronage, who is involved in cronyism in terms of whom he appoints to government jobs and positions.

It is for that reason that Albertans are turning to us to put their arguments forward on the floor of the House of Commons.

One thing Albertans want is a western diversification plan. I note that my good friend, the Member for Calgary North is quoted in a very credible newspaper, the *Calgary Herald*, back on April 16 as saying that he "would have liked to see the strategy unveiled 'yesterday'"; and the article goes on:

—and Calgary South MP Bobbie Sparrow said "the sooner the better."

Some of the Albertan MPs, too, are obviously unhappy that there have been delays in the announcement of the western diversification plan.

I have had the opportunity recently to talk to some people who have some knowledge about this particular plan, and I wish to put a few things on the record today.

The plan has been delayed. First of all, we had the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and his office saying, time and time again, that the plan was "coming soon" or "in a few weeks". Speculation was that it would be announced in March, and then again in April, and then again in June.