

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ASSIST ECONOMY IN ALBERTA

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, the Alberta economy has long been dependent upon its natural resources as the major source of income. As a result, Alberta is vulnerable to shifts in world resource or commodity prices. As we are all aware, today the agriculture and oil industries are suffering.

However, our Government has been sensitive to the needs of Albertans. We dismantled the National Energy Program and eventually the PGRT. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse) recently announced a major cash incentive program that will substantially boost employment, investment and activity in the oil and gas industry.

This program will provide approximately \$350 million a year in direct assistance to the industry. The Canadian Government will provide cash incentives of up to 33.33 per cent of exploration and development expenses in Canada, up to a maximum of \$10 million in spending per company each year.

In agriculture, we have made support of western farmers a priority. This year alone, they will receive direct federal assistance worth over \$2.5 billion, up from \$2.2 billion in 1986. Alberta has been and will continue to receive a major portion of government agricultural assistance.

I am proud to be part of a Government that not only listens to the needs of Albertans, but is actually doing something about answering those needs.

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MINES AND MINING

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF RUTTAN MINE AT LEAF RAPIDS, MAN.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, at this time 500 employees of the Ruttan Mine at Leaf Rapids, Manitoba, face the prospect of losing their jobs by September. If the mine closes at that time, the 1,800 residents of the northern community face the prospect of having to leave their homes, and their town.

The loss of the mine will deal a major blow to northern Manitoba's mining industry, which has had to exist precariously for several years in the face of slumping world prices for base metals. The loss of Leaf Rapids would force the relocation of 1,800 people and would adversely affect northern Manitoba's economy.

Whether one looks at the human cost or simply the economic consequences, the closure of the mine would be a tragedy for all.

The future of the mine and of the town itself depends on the successful negotiation of the sale of Ruttan to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company.

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I call upon the federal Government to co-operate fully with the Province of Manitoba in considering any request for assistance, and to do anything it possibly can to ensure that Leaf Rapids has a future.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

POSITION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the NDP in Quebec disagrees with his national leader.

Now that the 10 Premiers of Canada's 10 provinces and this Government have reached a constitutional accord, the NDP is still wondering about Canada's identity.

It is hard to imagine a member of the NDP in Quebec automatically becoming a member of the national party, because an NDP member who lives in Quebec does not seem to see Canada in the same way as a member who lives elsewhere in Canada.

This attitude is typical of all members of this Party and of all the NDP Members in this House. Not one of these comrades has taken a clear and unambiguous stand on the Constitution, on national defence or on the economy.

This bunch of radicals consists of a group of extremists: comrades, communists and socialists.

The only thing they have in common, Mr. Speaker, and this includes their provincial Leader in Quebec and their national leader, is that they are all prepared to prostitute themselves to take power.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE POSTAL SERVICES

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, first it was the members of the Conservative caucus who wanted to call out the army to deliver the mail. Then it was the President of Canada Post who said: Strike or no strike, we will deliver the mail. Now the Minister responsible for Canada Post is supporting these confrontation tactics. The Conservative Government is so anxious to follow Uncle Reagan's example that it is doing everything it can to have a postal strike, so it can lay off 60,000 postal workers.

Instead of being concerned about restoring to Canadians the postal services they have cut and about the fact that they are still depriving Canadians of these essential services, they are fanning the flames so there will be a postal strike in Canada. They should stop making irresponsible statements and concentrate on providing services.