

Taxation

theory of taxes. Those are the kinds of things they want for this country. It is that party that wants to be associated with United States interests.

The other day the hon. member for York-Peel condemned the government for the Bombardier-New York deal. I see that groups in the United States are now joining the hon. member in trying to prevent those 2,500 jobs from going to Canadians.

Mr. Stevens: How many?

Mr. McRae: Twenty-five hundred. Did I say 25,000?

Mr. Stevens: How about the American jobs?

Mr. McRae: We have an Export Development Corporation which the opposition spends much time condemning. The fact that we are doing what is being done in Japan, Germany, the United States, France and other countries, setting up financial deals in order to be more successful in our export trade, is something that should be praised, not condemned.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am wondering if the hon. member will accept one more question.

Mr. McRae: Mr. Speaker, I felt the last question was rather frivolous. I assume this will be the same type of question. I would rather use the time in my own way.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member referred to me two or three times in his speech. I am hoping he will entertain a question from me.

Mr. McRae: Mr. Speaker, I will finish my remarks and then I will be glad to accept a question from the hon. member. We have an argument here that is rather important.

It is very important to sell on the export market, but that is very difficult at this time. A company in Thunder Bay, Hawker Siddeley, tried to sell on the export market. It did not lose out because of quality or price. It could not compete with the loan that EDC would make. Therefore it is tremendously important that we assist our export trade.

Those on the other side do not place the same importance on this. That is why I say there is a significant difference between the approach taken by this side and that of members opposite. We follow a middle-of-the-road approach in an attempt to rationalize the industry and bring it under Canadian ownership without going to excess.

This is a centre party. The Conservative opposition wants to move everything to the right. It wants to function with the sparrow theory of economics, cutting taxes and giving incentives to large corporations. The NDP wants to move too rapidly. They want us to do far too much. This country could not stand the strain of an ideological left or an ideological right. This country must be kept together, and this can only be done with a centre-type of government.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am glad to have the opportunity to ask this question. We will see whether the hon. member takes it as frivolous or not. Does the hon. member realize that yesterday in Edmonton the largest

auction sale of oil field equipment from the oil patch was held? It was the largest in the history of the oil industry. Does the hon. member also know that brand new drilling rigs worth \$1 million were sold for \$510,000 on an unreserved auction sale? Does the hon. member also know that the equipment—

• (2130)

An hon. Member: What is the question?

Mr. Shields: Does the hon. member also know that the equipment was owned by Canadians, that the sale went for a period of five or six consecutive hours, and that the buyers were all Americans and all Canadians were selling? That was caused by the energy policy of this government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, order. I recognized the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) on a point of order, but obviously there was not very much of a point of order. He asked, in keeping with our tradition, whether or not he might ask the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. McRae) a question. That is fine. If it is not going to be a point of order, at least let there be an attempted question, relatively brief. Does the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan choose to answer the question, or shall I recognize the next speaker?

An hon. Member: No, no, give him a chance.

Mr. McRae: Mr. Speaker, I have already heard the question and of course I know. The answer is, yes, and I know it because he has told me. I do not disagree with the hon. member. What he has said is true and since what the hon. member says is true, that these rigs are going for half or less than half what they are worth, then there cannot be such a demand from the other side or other areas for the same thing, otherwise they would be going for more than what they are worth. We are talking about international commerce. I find the question could easily include what I have been saying all along, that is, there is a decline all over in this business and it is true in respect of these sales.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, order. If the House chooses to pursue this question and answer business during the time of the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. McRae), then I should recognize the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave).

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk, in this third reading debate on Bill C-112, mainly on natural gas. There is good reason for that. I live in an area where natural gas has been part of my heritage, going back in our history for a hundred years. That is a long time in southern Alberta, I can assure you. Natural gas has been a part of my whole life, so I think it is appropriate to make some comments