

Supply

Let us look for a moment at some of the other direct results of Canadian government policies. The House knows that before the Liberal government took office, the Cold Lake and Alsands projects were ready to go. The Liberal government lost them both. The National Energy Board estimates that those two projects would have created 153,000 jobs in Canada between now and 1990. Those 153,000 jobs were lost when the Liberals lost the Alsands and the Cold Lake projects.

The petroleum and gas revenue tax, the PGRT, wiped out the profitability of many marginal oil wells which require frequent services. This means that well servicing was down by 31 per cent in 1981. In that industry, too, thousands of jobs were lost directly because of the government and its taxing policy, which taxes and punishes the people to fatten the government which then tries to blame others.

[Translation]

Under the Canadian ownership program, \$7.7 billion were spent to purchase foreign oil companies. If this money had been available for investment in Canada, we could have created 307,000 jobs. The National Energy Program has cost this country 343,000 jobs in the last 18 months. About 300 drill rigs have left Canada because of the National Energy Program. This means 15,000 jobs that are now lost to Canadians. So much for the National Energy Program.

Now for the budget, whose aim was to stop Canadian private investment and increase government revenue. Corporate tax changes alone have cost Canadians nearly \$1.7 billion. If this money had been left in the pockets of Canadian investors and had been invested directly, it would have been possible to create 68,400 jobs this year.

[English]

To take specific examples from the budget, the provision to allow only one-half of the capital cost allowance results, according to Walter Gordon's figures, in the loss of 44,000 jobs in Canada. The decision to extend the corporate surtax for large business results, in applying the standard of 40 jobs per \$1 million of investment, in 18,600 jobs lost. The decision to impose a 12.5 per cent tax on dividends paid by small businesses from income taxed at lower rates results in the loss of 3,600 jobs. Thirty-six hundred people could have been working in Canada if it were not for that one budget provision alone. And so on it goes. You can take the receipts that they gain, you can compare them to the standard that the Gordon Institute puts out, and you can see just how many jobs this government is costing Canadians day after day after day. You can see just how much agony it is injecting into the lives of ordinary Canadians.

● (1540)

We are talking about hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs that were lost, not because of American policy, not because of world conditions, but as the direct result of Canadian government policies that are wrong. I wonder if the Minister of Finance has any idea of what his energy and budget policies have done to this country.

Miss MacDonald: Or cares.

Mr. Clark: Or cares. That is a question we must now put when we look at the human cost of these policies. I wonder if he has any idea of what those policies to which he and his colleagues cling so stubbornly—putting their pride ahead of the wellbeing of Canadians—have cost Canadians. Those policies have cost Canadians 714,000 jobs since the introduction of the National Energy Program and the budget.

For the Minister of Finance to absolve himself of responsibility and to blame everybody else is like a classic drunk standing with an empty bottle in each hand and saying, "It is not me who is scaring the hell out of people, it is just the pink elephants." Well, the disease is the minister's to cure. The minister must start by changing his own most basic assumptions.

That brings us to the question of what we can do in Canada to solve Canada's economic problems. First, we must insist that the statement or whatever planned by the Minister of Finance for the next few weeks must be, in effect, a budget or a mini-budget. He cannot escape with less. He owes the people of Canada that much.

Second, all of our actions must be based on the understanding that while we, too, are part of the world, we have a unique ability to control our own destiny in Canada. We should build Canada, not blame others.

Third, we should accept the principle that this nation needs investment to create new jobs and security that are the key to growth, individual security and to confidence in our country. We must re-establish a climate of confidence in Canada as a place to invest.

A fourth assumption must involve the recognition that an excellent way to reduce the government deficit is to put the Canadian people to work so they can pay taxes instead of collecting unemployment insurance. The House should know the facts about this. Between August of 1981 and May of 1982, the number of Canadians with jobs dropped by 320,000. We have estimated that the average Canadian taxpayer will pay \$2,737 in federal income tax and \$1,313 in provincial taxes, which averages out to a total of \$4,050 in federal and provincial personal taxes. If those 320,000 Canadians who have lost their jobs—who were working and are no longer working because of the government—were still working and paying taxes at average rates, they would be contributing to the federal treasury and the provincial treasury respectively \$875,840,000 and \$420,160,000, for a total of \$1.296 billion in new tax dollars to help cut the deficits. That does not take into account the amount of money which would be saved by not having to pay unemployment insurance to people who would rather be working. Those are the assumptions on which new policies should be based.

Let me come to the specific policies which we think must be followed and the changes which must be made. First, the disastrous November budget must be withdrawn. The attack on incentives which is central to the November budget must be abandoned and a new budget must be brought in which encourages individuals to invest in Canada and create jobs