

socialist party on this issue? It is opposed. It is with the CPR, for crying out loud.

This historical 80-year old issue for western Canada is being addressed by the Government and the socialists are opposed, all the while claiming they are interested in the west. What absolute utter hypocrisy. They do not have a clue what westerners want or what Albertans want. They do not have a clue about what is going on in Alberta today. Are they aware that 35,000 jobs were created in Alberta since the election? Are they aware that the unemployment rate was 12.1 per cent in September of 1984 and it is now 10 per cent? The unemployment rate in Alberta has dropped to 10 per cent. Total unemployment fell by 26,000 since September, 1984. Are they aware that the value of building permits in the first month of 1987 was up 29.3 per cent compared to the same period in 1986 and up 7.2 per cent compared to 1985 and up 12 per cent compared to 1984? The value of building permits is up. Are the socialists aware that housing starts in 1986 were up 5.5 per cent compared to 1985 and up 22.4 per cent compared to 1984 during the National Energy Program activity? Are they aware that last month there were more houses sold in Calgary than at any time in the history of that city, and that prices are rising?

● (1220)

Mr. Althouse: They are all leaving.

Mr. Andre: Are they aware of that fact? Are they aware that retail sales in Alberta, on a per capita basis, are the highest in the country, higher than in Ontario? Are they aware of that fact?

Comparing 1986 to 1981, are they aware that there was a much smaller reduction in farm families in Alberta in 1986 than in any other province of the country? Comparing 1986 to 1981, there was a drop of .5 per cent in the number of farm families in Alberta in 1986. In Ontario, the figure was 11.8 per cent; in Nova Scotia, 15.1 per cent; in British Columbia, 14.7 per cent. There was a smaller reduction in farm families in Alberta than in any other province of the country in that period.

Are they aware of those facts? Hardly. Had they been aware of them, they would not have had the nerve to introduce this motion.

Mr. Waddell: What about the Conference Board?

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, they simply have not a clue about what is going on in Alberta, or the rest of the country. I have read a statement of the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) to the effect that the jobs we have created have had no regional impact; that 94 per cent of the jobs created were in southern Ontario, around Toronto.

An Hon. Member: Absolutely false.

Mr. Andre: That is what the Leader of the New Democratic Party has said.

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An Hon. Member: NDP distortion.

Mr. Andre: If he had any clue about what was going on, he would realize that that is nonsense. In fact, something in the order of 40 per cent of the jobs created were located in Ontario, with 28 per cent being in the Province of Quebec and 23 per cent in the west. In fact, the distribution of new jobs equates approximately to the distribution of the population of the country.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), and every spokesman for this Government, recognizes that in fact regional disparity in this country remains a problem. But, it is not helpful to have the dauphin, the heir apparent, the guy who is buying the Gucci shop in anticipation of his move to 24 Sussex, going around making these absolutely false statements.

And talking about false statements, I heard the Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) state in his speech that if Amoco takes over Dome, there will be a drop in Canadian ownership of the oil and gas sector to 40 per cent. Again, I urge the Hon. Member to learn some facts before making statements in the House.

An Hon. Member: The NDP do not know facts.

Mr. Andre: In 1984, ownership of the oil and gas industry stood at 42.5 per cent Canadian, with control at 40.5 per cent. As of today, the ownership level is at 47 per cent, with control being at 48.4 per cent. In the event that the Amoco deal goes through, the ownership will be 43.7 per cent—still higher than in September, 1984; and the control will be 41.1 per cent, again higher than the level in 1984.

The statement by the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway that in fact we are reversing things somehow from that great wonderful period when we had the Liberals and the NDP in their coalition, is simply false. It is simply false, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Althouse: The notion of a coalition isn't exactly true either.

Mr. Andre: What the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway says is simply not the situation at all.

Let us look at what this Government has done for western Canada. We have had all of these false statements from the Opposition as to what the situation is today—

Mr. Althouse: We are simply quoting the figures of the Conference Board of Canada.

Mr. Andre: The Conference Board is trying to predict the future.

We have had all of these false statements about what the situation is today, and how we got to that situation. The explanations given by both opposition Parties were false and misleading. Let us have a look at what in fact this Government has done. Let us look first at the energy sector, in terms of over-all figures.