

*Supply*

The fact of the matter is that the Government's unrelenting intervention, its confiscating tax policies, its huge bureaucracies, and its creation of a multitude of Crown corporations have complicated the economy and created a costly burden upon all Canadians in the country. Furthermore, these things have stifled and eroded not only our economic freedom but indeed our political freedom. We all know, Sir, that true democracy cannot function within this kind of a controlled economy. That is why we brought this motion forward for debate. We draw to the attention of the House and Canadians in general that the Government's trend is wrong. The Government must reverse its dangerous and tragic trend and we implore it to do so without delay.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, that was a very interesting speech made by the previous Member. I would like to make a comment, and the possibility of a response to my comment would be appreciated.

I would like to observe, Mr. Speaker, in speaking about energy, that the combined efforts of both the Conservative provincial Government of Alberta and the Liberal federal Government in Ottawa is what has really destroyed or harmed the energy industry in Alberta. I would recall to the previous speaker that Peter Lougheed, the Premier of Alberta, gave a \$5 billion incentive to Alberta oil companies and these companies promptly took that \$5 billion out of the Province. In his blind adherence to free and private enterprise, Premier Lougheed attached no performance guarantees to that money. He gave a \$5 billion gift to the oil companies and that money was promptly removed from the Province of Alberta and used to buy 20-cent dollars in order to drill offshore and in Canadian lands.

I suggest to the previous speaker that it was the blind adherence to the ridiculous policies of both the Conservatives and the Liberals that caused a great deal of harm in Alberta and ended up creating an enormous amount of unemployment and a serious hampering of the energy industry in the Province. If a proposal were put forward to rectify this situation, that proposal would not only have to change Liberal policies but would certainly have to change that blind and ridiculous approach of the Conservative Government. I suggest that if we are to continue following that blind approach, we will end up destroying medicare and most of the institutions that have been created in the country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Epp:** That is a 6 per cent solution.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I thank the Hon. Member for his question. I might begin by reminding him that I am still a Member; I am not a former Member.

Second, I think he would find that there was general concurrence among the Canadian population and indeed among all sectors of the energy industry that it was not the combined forces of the Liberal and Conservative Governments that

brought the energy industry to its knees. It was really the efforts of the Liberal Government, aided and abetted by the NDP in Ottawa, that perpetrated the mess. I know that the Hon. Member is supportive of the so-called New Democratic Party industrial strategy which would propose to turn the total Canadian industrial sector into the equivalent of a National Energy Program. We disagree with that fundamentally because it has been proven that it does not work in the energy sector. It will not work in the other sectors of the economy either.

● (1130)

As far as blaming the Province of Alberta is concerned—and I take offence at that—I think the Hon. Member should know that the benefit of the low price provided by the Government of Alberta and the producing Provinces has not accrued to the consumer. That is concurred in by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), who points out day after day in this House that it was really the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario that moved to take up the slack. Any slack that they did not take up was absorbed by the federal Government. I would remind the Hon. Member that 65 cents per gallon goes into federal coffers. While Alberta was selling oil at the wellhead price of 50 per cent of 55 per cent of world price, that advantage was not accruing to the consumer, and I say that is a tragedy.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to run through this one more time to see if the Hon. Member can get it straight. Many other Conservative Members have problems with this.

The point I was making was that the Premier of Alberta—a Tory's Tory—gave away \$5 billion of Alberta's money without any performance requirements in that Province. As a result, we are now looking at deficits in that Province and 136,000 people unemployed as well as a serious problem in developing adequate energy supplies. The Alberta Energy Corporation simply took the gift at the expense of the people of Alberta, bought 20-cent dollars and moved the industrial activity or energy activity offshore into Canada lands.

I would ask the Hon. Member if he does not agree that that was a failure of the Conservatives at the provincial level and of the Liberals at the federal level.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should go to Alberta and talk to some of his NDP friends who offered an alternative to the Government which the people of Alberta rejected.

As far as the Hon. Member trying to explain the NDP energy policy is concerned, the polls show that only 16 per cent of the Canadian people understand it. I do not think I have to take any lessons from the Hon. Member about the way the Government of Alberta is run. Neither does the Premier of that Province. I invite the Hon. Member to go to the Province of Alberta, talk to a few people and he will be enlightened. It might improve the quality of his questions.