

*The Budget—Mr. Crosbie*

shoulders. Do you know, that minister has adopted our 85 per cent ceiling. We were only going to allow oil price increases, if they ever got that high, to go within 85 per cent of the world or the U.S. level, whichever was the lower. Lo and behold, in these energy documents the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be Horatio at the bridge. He will only allow them to go to 85 per cent of the U.S. or world level. I am sure 85 per cent in my terms is the same as 85 per cent in the terms used by the other side. Or am I wrong? Will there be an advertising campaign to show us that 85 per cent is not 85 per cent, that \$40 billion is not \$40 billion or that an export tax is not an export tax? The plucked goose is flying along.

It is a funny thing, but during the negotiations with Alberta, the government of Alberta offered an arrangement under which they said that they would be prepared to go to increases which would be only 75 per cent of the world level or the U.S. level, whichever was the lower. That was 10 per cent lower than the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. What happened to the 75 per cent? When we are giving Alberta the boots, why did we not give Alberta the 75 per cent to boot? Is it because hon. gentlemen opposite just wanted to paint Alberta as being a villain, a tyrant, a selfish, grasping province that is trying to wreck the rest of the country? Is that the picture they were trying to paint? Why do they not paint a clear picture? Why did they not adopt the 75 per cent suggestion of the province of Alberta? We do not hear 75 per cent even mentioned.

Page 10 of the budget contains some energy policies. I want to say a good thing about the budget. It has some good energy policies. For example, the budget indicates—I have to read this because the people of Newfoundland will not believe me. My people down there will not believe me unless I read it. They are watching it there now on cable television. The budget indicates:

The Atlantic provinces are more heavily dependent on oil than any other region of the country. For this reason, a fund will be established to support the conversion of oil-fired electrical plants to coal.

Have you heard that before? Yes. When? In the December budget. It was part of the PC energy program. Here it crops up again. It continues:

Financial assistance will continue to be given for interprovincial electrical connections and federal equity will be provided in support of hydro development on the lower Churchill River in Labrador.

That is another plank from the PC energy policy of December, but it is a plank that will never be crossed if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will not act to use his powers under section 92(10) of the BNA Act so that Newfoundland can transport hydroelectric power across the province of Quebec to customers in Ontario, the maritimes and New York. All he has to do is use section 92(10)(a) or (c) to declare that it will work for the general advantage of Canada. Ever since 1965 Newfoundland has asked him to do that, including his friend, the former Premier Smallwood who is down in Newfoundland today boosting his constitutional proposals and opposing Premier Peckford. He is squawking again after being so many years out of politics. Mr. Smallwood tried from 1965 to his demise politically in 1971 to get the government to use its

power to give Newfoundland a break so that one of our great natural resources could be utilized and not all of the economic rent would be taken by the province of Quebec. Ever since 1971 the Moore and Peckford PC administrations—for nine long years—have been asking the government to make that decision, and we still see this kind of wording in the budget, that they will give equity. Well, they can give all the equity they like, but the project is going nowhere if they will not use the constitutional powers, as they should, to treat Newfoundland in a similar manner as the other provinces have been treated with regard to transmission facilities for oil and gas.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Then it goes on to say:

New funds will also be available to find ways in which the large reserves of Cape Breton coal can be used to enhance energy security in the maritimes.

That is another PC policy. There will be an industrial conservation program and a housing retrofit program taken directly from our energy proposals. What is needed in this country is a retrofit job done on the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. That is what we need, a new retrofit program.

There are some good things in the budget, but they are taken from the budget of December, 1979. There is nothing new in it.

I have mentioned farmers, and it would be unfair not to mention fishermen. What is in this budget for the fishermen of Canada? There is nothing but increased prices of oil and increased prices of heating fuel. That is all that is in this budget for the fishermen. They will not get any energy tax credit to help them. To the fishermen in my district who supported me in this last election despite the talk of the 18 cents, the fishermen who supported me in ever-increasing numbers because they thought we were trying to do a job for Canada, I say, "You are being let down, gentlemen, not by us, but by the government which promised you that you were not going to face any increases in oil and gas prices."

That is the position, and they will not have anything to help them. In Newfoundland 80 per cent of the population live in their own homes. There will be no help for them. There will be no property tax credit or mortgage interest credit. There will be no energy tax credit for them, but there will be ever-increasing costs of energy for them and ever-increasing costs of food. When I speak to my electorate next, I will ask them to send back seven solid PC citizens to this House in the next election.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** What about Canadian ownership? It is just as simple as this: the government of this country controls the oil and gas industry—this government plus provincial governments. In effect this government, this Parliament, has the overriding powers. We do not need to buy the oil and gas industry to control it. If we are to spend dozens of billions of dollars buying out multinational companies because it sounds