

Government Orders

This gentleman campaigned for the free trade agreement and now he appears to have become an opponent of free trade. He has missed the Reform nomination and perhaps now he is seeking the New Democratic Party nomination. Mr. Speaker, I think that we have not had a constructive contribution to this debate; rather, we have had a red herring dragged across the floor of the House and it has no pertinence and is just appealing to some of the baser instincts of Canadians.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that Alberta faces a crisis. Alberta has lost 70,000 jobs in the oil and gas industry since 1985. This is a fact. We hear about lay-offs every day in Alberta. The gas and oil industry is in big difficulty. This has happened under this administration. It is this administration, the Conservative government that came to power in 1984, that promised prosperity for Alberta.

At least we have a responsive, responsible provincial government that seems to try to help the people of Alberta but the members from Alberta certainly do not represent the interests of Alberta in this Parliament.

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, I know the member for Calgary Northeast had no intention of misleading this House with his comments. Jobs have been lost in the oil and gas industry which is a market-wide industry now. It was this government that removed the National Energy Program. Regarding water, it was this government through the free trade agreement that ensured that water would not be on the table, with the exception of bottled water.

I feel very strongly that diversification throughout Alberta, and indeed many provinces, is extremely necessary. I wonder if the hon. member might like to inform the House just where he has been, and why he does not go back to his riding and find out exactly how the province of Alberta is diversifying.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I am looking at the statistics and I can see that Alberta has 4 per cent of manufacturing. I do not think it has changed in the last five years.

I have been trying to bring new industries into Alberta. But the fiscal policies of this government do not permit that. The fiscal policies, the transportation policies of this government have been a complete failure. It even cut the VIA trains, so that Canadians could not move from one province to another and see the beauty of this

country. This is the government that sold out to the interests in the free trade agreement to the United States.

• (1210)

I am really sorry this is happening. I hope this government will have the courage to go to the people and call an election.

Mrs. Sparrow: Why don't you go back to your riding Kindy?

Mr. Lee Richardson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I just did not want this debate to continue with the impression left by the hon. member that things were that bad in Alberta. As my hon. colleague from Calgary Southwest noted, had the hon. member ever had the occasion to visit his own riding, he might be more encouraged and less pessimistic than he is.

We hear this gloom and doom consistently from the member for Calgary Northeast. I appreciate that if you stayed in Ottawa all your life or spent the rest of your time in eastern Europe, you might see gloom and doom. But come out to Calgary once in a while I say to the member for Calgary Northeast, and you will see a vibrant, booming economy, a diversified economy. I look in my own riding at the Foothills Industrial Park. I see innovative technology, work ethic, high-tech, new jobs created, not just in the oil and gas business, but a vibrant new economy with an open market in the United States for Calgary companies who are transporting goods to the United States into new markets. It is a booming, optimistic economy, the result of the free trade agreement.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I think the statistics are somewhat different. As I mentioned, 70,000 jobs have been lost in Alberta since 1984 in the oil and gas industry. That is reality.

I am a physician. I have a lot of friends in my riding who use to be my patients. They are losing their jobs. They are losing their houses because of the policies of this government. It introduced the goods and services tax that has put this country into a depression, not a recession. The Government of Alberta is fighting the goods and services tax in the courts. And what are those members from Alberta doing? They are not supporting their provincial government. They are supporting the centralists here in Ottawa.