

the oil industry is at a standstill. This could have been avoided if the government had thought ahead.

In July, 1980 Premier Lougheed offered the government a way out when he proposed an oil price 65 per cent to 75 per cent of the Chicago price after three or four years. He included a lot of other fringe benefits, such as financing the pipeline to the maritimes and providing money for transportation of grain in western Canada. If that agreement had been accepted, millions of dollars would have been saved, but much of this money will now come out of the pockets of the people in Ontario and Quebec, where the major population is, to pay for foreign oil. Now things are worse. The sooner the government accepts that agreement, the better things will be. If it does not, more and more industries in this country will be wiped out. This bankruptcy legislation will not prevent any bankruptcies.

It may have seemed clever to try to hurt Alberta because it was doing well, but this country will not be built by penalizing those who are working and making it pay. I grew up in Alberta when it was one of the have-not provinces with a huge debt. The object was to get that debt paid and get the province back on its feet. The policy that started back in 1935 was pay-as-you-go. The policy of the present government is to provide for the present and for the future but not to go into debt unnecessarily and to spend money just because it has it. Every time a program is adopted, the cost five or ten years from now must be considered. There is no backing up on those programs.

I hope the minister will delay the legislation which requires metric measurement in our food stores. Thousands of people across the country have indicated that they do not want it, yet \$7 million per year is spent telling them that they must have it. Metric measurement in food stores will only create chaos and hard feelings. It will not build any more trade. As a matter of fact, the IGA organization has said that it will lose trade because people who live close to the United States border will go there to buy food in a language they can understand. Why must we suddenly have metric in our food stores? The people of this country are not illiterate. They know what they want. They understand the imperial system. If the United States was changing, there might be some logic in this country's changing as well. There is no logic whatsoever in the government spending \$7 million this year. That is unnecessary. The money comes out of the pockets of the people, or it is borrowed and the people must pay interest on it as long as they live and probably as long as their children live. It is all for nothing and the people do not want it. Metric conversion will cause bankruptcies if it goes through. I attended a meeting in Ottawa where representatives of IGA said that the cost would be something like \$2 million which would be passed on to consumers. So it is not only inflationary, it is adding to the cost of living.

We also passed legislation to provide for two languages on every package of corn flakes, thus increasing the cost.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Taylor: If the hon. member opposite wants to make a speech, let him go ahead and make it. I have never seen

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anyone so devoid of speeches. Hon. members opposite sit like lumps during the day and then when somebody else is speaking they start cha, cha, cha.

Mr. Parent: That is what you sound like, cha, cha, cha, cha.

Mr. Taylor: Where two languages are required, that is fine; but in many cases it is not required and it is not cheap at all.

Mr. Berger: It is cheaper.

Mr. Taylor: Tell me that metric is cheaper as well. What about the \$7 million? The government knows better than the people. That is its philosophy, but the people of this country are getting fed up with it.

The government's legislation causes a lot of bankruptcies and the government will have to take responsibility for that. Government policies are also a major cause. High interest rates stop expansion, kill new starts and lower production. I suppose my friends opposite who have so much to say when they are in their seats will now be supporting high interest rates even though they are killing business. I should like them to put that in their pipes and smoke it. It is not fair to anyone to permit interest rates to change in mid-stream. When a contract is made for a mortgage on a house, the interest rate should not be changed. Otherwise it is unfair to the person who makes the contract.

Subsidies are provided for some people. Some of the companies that go bankrupt get a subsidy or a hand-out from the government at the expense of the rest of the people. Imperial Oil was not going bankrupt but it said it was leaving the country. The government should have entered into an agreement and thereby saved another few million dollars.

● (1700)

I understand we are now providing subsidies for a trucking company in the Northwest Territories. There have been trucking companies in that part of the country for many years which have built up their own business with hard work and their own capital. They have paid their way. But now competitors are coming in which are subsidized by the government. If you call that building a country, I say it is not. It is ruining a country. Subsidization like that should not be permitted. This would be a good avenue for DREE, but even DREE is doing that type of thing.

I have already written to the minister about one case where a government grant of \$49,000 put one company into business but ruined another, one which had built itself up over a number of years with its own capital. The company which received the \$49,000 subsidy could, of course, sell its product cheaper, and the other company which had paid its own way was ruined. That is not the purpose of government subsidies. There is a place for government grants in business but they should never put one firm in a better competitive position than another, particularly when the other one has been built through sacrifice and brawn without government assistance.