

moratorium on all clear-cut logging in the area while another alternate environmental plan can be worked out? Will the Government commit itself to a political and a technical process with the Band and with the Quebec Government to ensure that their traditional way of life is not destroyed? Will the Government act as an advocate?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member points to a situation that did not begin in 1984. It is noteworthy that these people have had the problem for a long, long time, some 20 years, and no one had addressed it.

Mr. Manly: You have done nothing.

Mr. Valcourt: We have met with them.

The Hon. Member talks about interfering in the administration of justice. I understand that the police have taken action. The socialists, of course, would always intervene in police work. That is not my job to do. My job is to work with the Chief and with the people to help them get Quebec to discuss the issues they have raised. We have made that commitment and we intend to follow up on it.

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ENERGY

CANADIAN EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Government has had no trouble giving billions of dollars to the big oil companies, but today the Minister of Energy reduced the assistance to small and medium oil companies under the Canadian Exploration Development Incentive Program.

I know the Government considers small and medium oil and gas companies a nuisance even though most of them are Canadian, but to reduce funding at this time of low world oil prices will be extremely harmful. Why is the Government trying to put the small and medium oil companies out of business?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has referred to an announcement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources this morning, and he says we decreased. In fact we increased. We increased the amount of assistance available from 16 and 2/3 per cent to 25 per cent in the Canadian Exploration and Development Incentive Program, CEDIP.

The Hon. Member has said that we view this part of the industry as a nuisance. I do not know where the Hon. Member has been over the last four years, but the policies of this

Government in the energy field have been directed at bringing back that part of the industry that was destroyed, absolutely destroyed during the 1980-81-82 period.

I visited many parts of Alberta and talked to those people he is referring to as a nuisance. They may be a nuisance in the minds of the Liberal Party because that is how the previous Government treated that part of the oil and gas industry. It treated it as a nuisance, and sent so many of them south of the border during that time. That is how that industry was destroyed.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance better stop smoking that stuff, because he really knows that it is one-third now, and the small and medium oil and gas companies wanted to keep it at one-third. However, as of October 1 it is reduced from one-third to one-quarter.

The Minister was not short of funds for the big oil companies, but if he was short of funds, he could have reduced the total amount available from \$10 million to \$5 million instead of reducing the percentage. He is acting contrary to what the small and medium producers wanted.

The Government says it wants Canadianization but it is putting Canadian companies out of business. Why is the Government refusing to acknowledge the damage being done to small and medium oil companies by the OPEC-orchestrated low world oil prices?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member said we did not give the industry exactly what it wanted. I do not think we have given anyone in this country exactly what he or she wanted. That is the way the Liberal Government used to operate, throw the money around, make everybody happy.

Mr. Tobin: You have the face of a robber's horse.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): What we have done is looked at the proposal that this—

Mr. Tobin: Give us a break, Mike, sit down. Issue the writ, call the election.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Clearly, the Hon. Member—

Mr. Tobin: You have more nerve than a toothache.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Clearly the Member from Newfoundland is getting a little twitchy. His collar is probably getting a bit too tight because of the pressure he is under now. I know that when you are third in the polls, just bumping up against the libertarian party, it is tough.