

Borrowing Authority

stand up the next day and automatically applaud anything the Liberal Government does. I do not think he would be willing to do that, nor on the other hand do I expect partisan comments from the Chamber of Commerce. That is why, unlike the other Member, I chose a non-partisan body for its assessment of the budget rather than some gentleman who made a lot of money from the Tory Party during the income tax debate.

I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that Norman Godfrey of HUDAC said on April 20, as reported in *The Globe and Mail*, "The pro-business budget will generate confidence and create jobs".

On the night of the budget, John Bulloch said that the budget was a combination of good politics and economics and that business will generally give high marks.

Those people are not partisan like the gentleman who sat in the Tory lobby and fed questions to Tories who could not themselves understand what they were supposed to ask.

I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that in the budget there is indeed a very short section dealing with small business, but everything else in the budget stimulates the interests and the benefits of small business. The RHOSP will stimulate the business of furniture companies and stores. Again the RHOSP will stimulate activity among small construction companies and housing contractors. The tax incentives, the investment incentives, the construction equipment incentives will all stimulate small business. I can go on all day. Those incentives are not listed under the section dealing with small business, Mr. Speaker, but they sure help small business.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, in responding briefly to the Parliamentary Secretary's rhetoric, I should point out that Mr. Drache has a very distinguished record as a public servant who worked for the Department of Finance and who, I suspect, has drafted a few budgets himself. As far as the Parliamentary Secretary's other rhetoric is concerned, it has become fairly well known across the country that this is a budget of short-term gain for long-term pain.

Unemployment levels will not be affected very much. There will be at least 10 per cent unemployment plus into the next two to three years and 12.4 per cent for the rest of this year. That figure will hopefully moderate to a level of 10 per cent. I do not think that a level of 10 per cent unemployment is acceptable in any industrialized nation, and certainly not in Canada with the potential and opportunity that we have.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, I have just one question for the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). He, along with his colleagues, constantly refers to the exodus of oil companies and drilling companies in particular, with their rigs flowing in vast quantities south from Alberta into the United States. This was quite true back in 1980 and 1981. I was wondering whether or not the Hon. Member attributes this exodus to the downturn in OPEC oil prices throughout the world, to the fact that there is a world glut in oil, and to the fact that we have found alternate sources of oil and petroleum products. How does he account for the fact that, without very

much fanfare and publicity, particularly in the West, most of these oil drilling companies are now bringing their rigs back into Canada and are saying that the reason they are coming back to Canada is that there is no work for them in the United States, that they cannot compete in the United States, that there is no demand in the United States, that their balloon has burst in the United States? The oil industry in the United States is a totally private sector industry, all privately owned. There is no national energy policy, Mr. Speaker, south of the border. Why are all these rigs now coming back into Canada? Because they cannot make a living down in the United States.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for the Member who posed the question, although I would not expect him to be totally abreast of the realities in Alberta. The fact of the matter is that in 1980 and 1981 when we saw the exodus of drilling rigs south of the border, there was not an OPEC crisis. The fact of the matter is that things in western Canada were really humming for the oil industry and the service sector. The whole industry was really humming. We saw not only an exodus of drilling equipment and men and capital, but we saw an exodus of expertise.

I speak with some experience, Mr. Speaker, because I have two boys who are involved in drilling activities and they too found their way down south temporarily. Yes, they are on their way back home now because there is renewed activity in Saskatchewan. There is a new Government in Saskatchewan that is open for business. It happens to be a Progressive Conservative Government. There is a recently announced drilling incentive program in Alberta and there was a drilling incentive program announced which was in effect a year ago. But these are provincial programs that are needed to compensate for the disastrous effect of the federal energy program.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Speaker, in view of the proximity to the hour, might I call it one o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): May I remind Hon. Members that the eight-hour period has now passed and that speeches and contributions from now on will be in the order of ten minutes. It would certainly be difficult for the Hon. Member to commence his speech now. That would leave him with perhaps six minutes or so remaining when we reach Orders of the Day again. Accordingly, with the consent of the House, shall we call it one o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.