

Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act

is the Government's excuse for doing this? This is a rich industry. It received windfall profits when we went to world oil prices. They had a lot of old oil in the ground which was priced at about Canadian \$28 and then went to Canadian \$38. That was a nice windfall and who benefited? Texaco, Imperial, Shell; the big boys.

Then this tax is removed. Why? The Government is not stupid. It is not doing it just because it is totally in the pockets of the oil companies. The Government's argument is that this will get more money to the oil industry and it will create jobs. Government Members wave around the figure of 300,000 jobs. No doubt by giving all that money to the oil industry some jobs will be created. That is good. It is also good that the economy of Alberta picks up. However, they have swallowed the line of the Canadian Petroleum Association hook, line and sinker.

Mr. Towers: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is the Hon. Member honest enough, does he have enough integrity, to admit that the PGRT killed the economy of the Province of Alberta?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Waddell: That is called smuggling a question in on a point of order. I do not think the PGRT killed the economy of western Canada. There was a recession. It affected the United States, too. The PGRT hurt some companies.

Mr. Towers: Killed them.

Mr. Waddell: The Government then moved to alleviate the problem. It made exceptions up to \$500,000. As a matter of fact, when the Conservative Government came in the Liberals had all but abandoned the NEP if you want to know the truth. The oil industry was making good profits. Do you know what the profits were for the majors in 1983? From 1982 to 1983 Gulf went from \$201 million to \$218 million. Imperial went from \$289 million to \$332 million. Shell went down from \$133 million to \$102 million. In 1984 it went up to \$158 million. Texaco went from \$275 million to \$344 million. Does that look like the oil industry was killed? Look at the revenue sharing. You can get this information from the Government's own Petroleum Monitoring Agency as I did. Look at how much money the industry made and how much there was to share. In 1980 the industry had as its share \$6.3 billion. In 1981 it was \$6.7 billion. In 1982 it was \$9.4 billion; in 1983, \$10.6 billion and 1984, \$11.6 billion.

There is no doubt there was a recession in Alberta. There is no doubt that the tax, when it was originally put in place, had an effect on the industry. It hit some smaller outfits. However, that was changed. The fact is that this was a tough, effective tax which actually took money out of the pockets of the oil companies for a change and put it in the federal treasury. It was a tremendous fight between Trudeau and Lougheed. Lougheed accepted it in the end. Trudeau and Lougheed toasted the deal they had made. The Conservatives need not complain; Lougheed made the deal. Alberta put in place a

form of PIP grants and so on. Let us not talk myth, let us talk reality.

I do not know how much longer I have, Mr. Speaker? One minute?

Mr. Towers: Too long.

Mr. Waddell: Too long. All right. I was making the argument before I was interrupted that the Conservatives were not stupid. They argued that they needed to give the oil companies more money so more jobs could be created. I was saying that the figure of 300,000 jobs was taken right out of a brief we got in committee from the Canadian Petroleum Association in 1984. It was exactly their brief. The Conservative energy program was exactly the proposals in that brief. So they bought it, hook, line and sinker. Big oil has its own agenda as it has always had. They want more tax breaks so that they can invest money and—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, you said I had five minutes left.

● (1600)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You have six minutes left to be used the next time the matter is debated in the House.

Mr. Waddell: Well, Mr. Speaker, could I conclude today?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Waddell: I think I was misled. I thought I had six minutes today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You cannot use the remaining six minutes unless you have unanimous consent.

Mr. Waddell: I just want to conclude in one minute.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are six minutes left in the time allotted, but he may conclude now in a few seconds.

Mr. Waddell: I will just conclude by saying that the Government is going to have tremendous problems because of this Bill. The Government gave up tax revenues of \$5.3 billion until 1990. The Government has a deficit problem. Where is it going to get that money? Although I hate to say it, because the price of oil is falling dramatically I do not think it will be raised through the oil companies reinvesting and creating 300,000 jobs. They will just not create all those jobs and the Government will not get that additional revenue. The Government has a real problem with its energy policy and deficit. This Bill is a tremendous mistake and the Government will live to regret it.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to comment further on your ruling to the effect that the time of the Hon. Member in response to the motion is