

Let me refer, again, to the west and to the oil and gas export tax which was suddenly imposed on the producing provinces without consultation, virtually wiping out millions of dollars of revenue upon which the provinces were counting. That was imposed by the federal government without consultation. The provinces were simply informed by way of a press release, a television speech or something of that nature. That is not the way to keep provinces trusting the federal government. The federal government should not make sudden decisions of that kind and inform the provinces by way of press releases. Rather, it should at least have the decency to make a telephone call. We have a very serious problem in this country and until we reverse that kind of approach to federal-provincial relations we will continue to have serious problems.

Let us consider the totally unrelated subject of scientific research. We want to know why there is unhappiness among the people of this country, why the people are unhappy with the government, why they do not seem to trust their politicians any more, and why they are looking for radical changes. Anyone who has any concern about the development and progress of this nation will admit that scientific research is a very fundamental part of the development of any nation. But what have we seen under this government? We have seen a continuing erosion of research. Researchers have been driven out of the country.

Mr. Maine: Have you looked at the estimates?

Mr. Yewchuk: Yes, I have looked at the estimates.

Mr. Maine: They are up.

Mr. Yewchuk: They have been increased less than the increase in inflation in the scientific field. If the hon. member disagrees, he can speak when I sit down and can give the facts as he sees them. In any case, we have a situation where the scientific community has been totally undermined and it is totally disgusted with and discouraged by the policies this government is following. They are Canadians, too, from all parts of the country. They are involved in teaching our students in universities and in many other institutions, and they are totally disgusted with the political process because it pays little attention to real needs but much attention to political gains.

Let us consider our national defence forces. There is a huge military base in my constituency.

Mr. Paproski: The one in mine is leaving.

Mr. Yewchuk: The one in the constituency of the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski) is being dismantled.

Mr. Paproski: They are taking our Francophone unit.

Mr. Yewchuk: Let us consider what has been happening to the funding of the defence forces of this nation. It is easy to see that it has been continuously underfunded, undermined and underequipped. Bases are being closed everywhere and some

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are being moved unnecessarily—all things which appear to be totally ridiculous and unfounded.

Mr. Goyer: This is untrue.

Mr. Paproski: You don't know whether you are coming or going.

Mr. Goyer: There is a 12 per cent increase this year.

Mr. Yewchuk: These are things this government is doing, and the government tells Canadians that it is their fault that there is no unity in this country. I suggest, once again, that this government, including the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer), re-examine these policies seriously rather than simply take the reactionary approach the minister is taking now which assumes that anything the opposition says is totally inaccurate.

Mr. Goyer: You are not reading the documents.

Mr. Yewchuk: It is high time everyone in the cabinet took a look at what is happening in this country.

Mr. Paproski: How much are agents getting this year?

● (1650)

Mr. Yewchuk: I think that we can also have a look at aboriginal rights. We will find that those rights have been ignored for a decade since this government has been in power. This has just been put off forever. You might ask, "Why do the native people express displeasure with this government? Why are they unhappy? Why is there disunity?" All you have to do to find the answer is to look at the record.

What upsets me most is that there are about one million Canadians in this country without work. Regardless of the statistics the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) might choose to quote, whether they wish to say there are 750,000 unemployed, or one million, both those numbers are very high. The government tells people that all they have to do to solve their problem is to say to Quebec, "I love you" and suddenly everyone will be happy. If they did that I am sure the response would be a very unpleasant one.

The Conservative party brought this country together over 100 years ago. This is the party which brought about the marriage, so to speak, between the Anglos and the Francos. Those are the words the Prime Minister himself has coined. I do not like them, but that is what he likes to use. So the Anglos and the Francos were married at that time. We kept the country together for 100 years or more. Now the marriage is falling apart. The Prime Minister's vision of the marriage is that Quebec has become like a petulant wife who simply wants her husband to tell her that he loves her. I suppose he envisages Quebec as a petulant wife because he is a petulant man himself and sees others in his own image.

We have a new premier in Quebec. I do not want to attack him unjustly because he has only started in his job, but I have to say that I do not like what I see so far. He seems to be