

of his delivery is reminiscent of one of my professors in university who had long passed his academic usefulness and had long lost not only his own interest but that of his students and, therefore, was not of any use to himself or his students. I suspect the minister had an underlying purpose in this type of delivery. It was a lame attempt to lull the members of this House into passing this bill by playing down its dictatorial aspects if passed, this bill would give dictatorial powers to five people to allocate and govern all aspects of energy in Canada. These five people, all omnipotent, would not be responsible to the people of Canada. They would have a power that should be foreign to any country which calls itself a democracy. The word "democracy" does not mean dictate to the people, as this government would like it to mean. It means rule by the people, as advocated and established by my forefathers almost 2,500 years ago.

The way Bill C-236 is worded, with its innuendos and soft-sell approach, compares very much with the fine print one often hears about in connection with some shady contractual dealings conducted by people whose only interest is to dupe their victims for the sake of the almighty dollar, giving no thought to the aftermath of such action in terms of suffering and deprivation.

It is not my intention to dwell on this bill clause by clause. This will be done by the committee. However, I say most emphatically this government has not made a case to justify the wide-reaching powers of this bill. The only power the government may need now is the authority to ration. The government has already at its disposal adequate legislative authority to deal with most of the energy problems facing Canada today.

Perhaps the most serious energy problem we face today is that of price and price increases. This bill does not provide for a realistic policy that would alleviate fuel prices which work to the disadvantage of Canadians east of the Ottawa valley. One of the most devastating provisions of this bill is that which would give the government authority to negate provincial priorities relevant to an energy crisis. In fact, some of the powers are so far reaching that the federal government can invade areas of undisputed provincial authority.

This bill, if passed, will give all power to a board to supersede and over-rule all legislation now in effect relating to the control of pollution and pollution problems affecting our country nation-wide. Legislation that may have taken years of preparation to protect our environment would be ruthlessly swept aside, perhaps never to be enforced again, or if re-enforced, would only be in a diluted version. This bill is not a temporary measure to deal with a specific crisis and then expire. It is intended to be permanent. It does not come into effect on proclamation like the War Measures Act. It is in effect from the day Royal Assent is granted and can be used by the governor in council at any time. A much more careful look will have to be given this bill. Many changes will have to be made before it will win the respect of the majority of the members of this House.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words on Bill C-236, the energy supply emergency bill. Surely, there can be no matter of greater importance at this time, to not only this country but other

### *Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

countries around the globe, than energy supplies. This bill will give the government wide-ranging powers to allocate the supplies of energy which we have available in Canada. Indeed, we are probably one of the most fortunate of all nations on earth in that we are blessed with large supplies of all forms of energy, including hydroelectric power, coal, oil, gas and, perhaps the most important in the long haul, uranium.

● (1730)

The problem is that these resources are not all arranged geographically so we can take complete advantage of them at the present time. This is why this bill is brought before the House giving the government the power to allocate these resources during the next couple of years while we construct an oil pipeline from western Canada to supply markets in eastern Canada—Montreal and the maritime provinces.

Last Thursday the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) spoke in this House and outlined a series of steps that will provide the basis for a national energy policy. These include the maintenance of the price freeze on crude oil until the end of the heating season this winter. The effects of this will be felt in parts of Ontario and western Canada which receive petroleum products from Alberta and the prairie provinces.

As might be expected, the immediate reaction to the maintenance of this present price freeze from the multinational oil corporations was a strong one, since they see the windfall profits that might otherwise have been theirs slipping out of their hands. However, the benefit of the freeze will accrue to the Canadian people who require oil products in the part of Canada west of the Ottawa Valley line. In spite of the loss of these windfall profits which the multinational corporations had their eye on, they have not done badly in that the price of their products has gone up at least 30 per cent during the past year.

That is not to say, however, that the price of crude oil will remain constant or frozen for any length of time. The Prime Minister made it clear that in the long haul we must raise the price of our crude oil products if we are to develop the Alberta tar sands, the oil reserves in the Arctic and those off the east coast on our continental shelf. Indeed, I have heard it said that in order for the tar sands reserves to be developed at current prices and cost of production, the oil companies would have to receive something like \$6 a barrel.

The Prime Minister also made it clear in his speech last Thursday that the federal and provincial first ministers would be meeting in January and looking at the problems caused by increased prices east of the Ottawa Valley line, especially the cost of heating oil for Quebec and the Maritimes. He indicated that some solution would be found for low-income families. I, personally, think we should be considering some form of direct assistance, whether a direct payment to compensate low-income families for the additional heating costs they are going to encounter this winter, or some other form of assistance. The Prime Minister made it clear that the old Borden-Ottawa Valley line was to be eliminated, and with the co-operation of the premiers of the provinces there would be a one-price and one-petroleum policy for Canada. However