

That is the understatement of the year. It continues:

My government is determined to reduce that dependence by promoting conservation and by stimulating the production of new domestic energy supplies.

Not one initiative has come to pass. There has been nothing taken of a novel nature in terms of the new initiative on energy conservation nor in obtaining newer and other supplies of this precious commodity. Another item says that mandatory fuel efficiency standards for automobiles will be established. Policies will be designed to improve home insulation. Where are the legislative enactments with respect to these initiatives? What are we looking forward to? Does the manufacturer of automobiles in this country know what kinds of constraints will be placed on him with respect to the production and manufacture of automobiles? When will the home owner become apprised of what additions and benefits will be available to him or her? I suspect this will probably be just after the heating season commences next winter so they will be unable to take advantage of it for at least another year.

Here is another item:

In co-operation with provincial governments, other steps will be taken to encourage more rapid substitution from oil to other energy sources in order to substantially reduce the significance of oil in meeting our energy needs.

There is nothing; there is not one indication of any movement in this direction.

Here is another item:

Policies will be introduced to encourage consumers to switch from oil to natural gas or electricity for home heating.

Mr. Deans: That is in the United States.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am glad for that intervention, Mr. Speaker, because it gives me cause to consider that it may be that we have heard the speech from the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain already, if that is the extent of his contribution. I hope not. I hope we will hear from him and I hope we will find out where he stands on this important issue so he can go back to his steelworkers in Hamilton and get their unblemished support.

I shall now continue. The next item says:

My government equally favours the earliest possible construction of a natural gas pipeline to Quebec City and the maritime provinces—

I guess I have to give the government a C-minus for this item because if I had left off the words “and maritime provinces” I suppose that might have been some indication that they had taken some steps. The maritime provinces are out on a limb again as usual with this government. There is no consideration with respect to the long-term energy requirement for that part of the country, and I would say we would have to give them a C-minus with respect to that. It is very encouraging to see at least in one of these items there has been some small statement of their policy.

Here is another item:

Petro-Canada will be maintained and expanded as an instrument of public policy.

Summer Recess

Further in the same paragraph it says:

—our national oil company will also receive a renewed mandate to engage vigorously in oil purchase negotiations and agreements with foreign suppliers.

That is a nice statement of intention, but again I have to state regretfully that there has been no indication that that policy will be introduced in the immediate future. There has not been exactly, from what I hear, a plethora of Petro-Canada people rushing around trying to get external contracts. As far as I know, the initiatives that have taken place while I was minister are still the only initiatives that are being undertaken by this government.

We are almost at the end. I just want to conclude and make another reference to the Speech from the Throne as follows:

You will be asked to approve a new Canada Oil and Gas Act, which will provide new preferential rights for Petro-Canada and other Canadian companies—and establish new and more demanding requirements for exploration and development of these promising frontier areas.

This has not happened yet. Maybe it will happen later on. Maybe when we get back and the government has had a chance to consider its priorities, we will have some idea of what the government is going to do with the Canada oil and gas act and the regulations which are now in effect.

The last item to which I shall bring your attention is this:

An alternative energy corporation will be created with a mandate to stimulate the development of new and renewable energy sources to replace oil.

There is nothing except some suggestion in question period today that this is one of the things which the minister was giving serious thought to. It may be, indeed, a subsidiary of Petro-Canada. But there is nothing too precise. No action has been taken. All we hear is promise after promise, without the suggestion of any sort of movement with respect to all of these undertakings made by this government in the Speech from the Throne.

The government came into power on the basis of introducing, at an early date, an energy policy to meet the crisis we face in our energy situation in Canada today. It has been virtually inactive in any area of energy development and energy policy.

Mr. Deans: You tell us what your policy is.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I have one final point. I believe the time allotment is 40 minutes, and I have another ten minutes, and then I will be finished.

Mr. Deans: You are not going to use the ten minutes, are you?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Yes, I am.

I know that the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain is interested in getting into this debate, so I think it is only incumbent upon me to take the initiative that will allow him to speak so we can hear him and allow the New Democratic Party to carry on.

Mr. Deans: I will speak at eight o'clock.