

S.O. 26

Mr. Clark: I want to find the list—and perhaps my colleague could help me—

Mr. Harquail: You had better get help!

Mr. Clark: —the list prepared by the government in 1978. I have one here.

The hon. member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) says “help him”. He is a member who speaks forever from his seat. I will look forward to seeing the hon. member for Restigouche—

[Translation]

—perhaps in French, if he speaks French—

[English]

—taking his place in this House tonight to defend a policy which is costing the citizens of the north shore of New Brunswick jobs today, which is costing the citizens of the north shore of New Brunswick growth today, which is costing the citizens of the north shore of New Brunswick security today and tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2010)

Mr. Clark: This crisis has been caused in Canada. It is a direct result of federal government policies, and I say, sir, that it is the policy of the whole government.

The Minister of Energy chose not to come home tonight, chose not to use that Jetstar of his to come home at government expense to debate the issues before the country—he is hiding out in Texas. Well, that is not hideout enough because he is not the only minister responsible for the destructive energy policies of this government. His whole government is responsible for a policy which is accounting step by step for the destruction of energy jobs in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is like a kamikaze pilot, except that it is the country he is going to destroy, not just himself.

The Alsands project, Mr. Speaker, which was cancelled last week, was ready to start in 1980. The construction teams were on the site, an energy agreement had been negotiated which would have let the project proceed. But then there was a new government. It brought in an energy policy which has accomplished the systematic destruction of the energy industry in Canada.

An hon. Member: What industry?

Mr. Clark: I hear from the NDP, “What industry?” I will be very interested to know what the policy of the NDP is tonight. I will be very interested to know whether they believe Alsands should go forward, or whether they will be back in bed with the Liberals on this question.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): It is Tuesday; no telling what their policy will be.

Mr. Clark: The minister pretends that the blame lies with the companies because they refused to accept a last minute offer—an offer which might have been accepted had it been made even four months earlier. In fact, what happened last week was just the final step in a process which began in March, 1980, barely weeks after the Liberal party had been elected to office by promising to keep the increase in the price of gasoline below 14 cents a gallon.

Their first step was to declare that the world price would no longer be paid for oil sands production. Their second step was the National Energy Program. Their third step was the energy agreement of September, 1981. Together those steps destroyed the climate which would have made Alsands possible.

Back in 1978 the then energy minister, Mr. Gillespie, boasted about energy projects which the federal government would encourage as the basis of Canada's future. The hon. member for Restigouche was asking for the list, and it is worth reading that list today. That list included the Dempster pipeline, which is on indefinite hold. It would have created 6,000 jobs directly, and 26,000 jobs indirectly. That is now on hold and probably gone. The Alaska highway gas pipeline which would have created 13,000 jobs directly and 55,000 jobs indirectly, has been postponed for at least two years. The Polar Gas project, which would have created 15,000 jobs directly, and 45,000 jobs indirectly, is gone. The Tenneco LNG projects is cancelled. The Kitimat pipeline to the Alaska highway oil pipeline—they proposed one or the other—is cancelled. The Alsands project is cancelled. The Syncrude project expansion is cancelled. The heavy oil upgrading in Saskatchewan is postponed. The Cold Lake project is cancelled. The oil storage project at Wabanex is cancelled. Cancelled! Cancelled!

What is the total? The projects which have been cancelled, according to the government's own figures, would have created 71,000 jobs directly in the oil and gas industry, and 255,050 indirectly. That means jobs in Quebec, Ontario, Atlantic Canada. That means jobs across the country lost because the Liberal government has followed the direction of a bunch of theorists who know nothing about the energy business except how to drive it out of Canada and how to drive people out of jobs!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Clark: In 1978, the Liberal government made much of the jobs that would be created by oil and natural gas development projects in Canada. At a federal-provincial conference, the government announced a series of energy projects that were supposed to create nearly 100,000 jobs in the oil and gas industry and 320,000 jobs in related industries. And now, four years later, most of these projects have been abandoned. Why? Because of the Liberal government's policy. Most of these jobs in Canada will never materialize. The Liberal government has lost the Alsands project. It lost Cold Lake, the Syncrude