

Energy

suffer. I have seen the attitude of these most affected workers in the industry change during the course of this year. They started the year with a feeling of optimism, as being part of an industry that had a glowing future. They could expect some security and some promotion. Now their attitude has turned from one of optimism to one of concern, to one of anger and finally to one of fear for their jobs. I do not suppose there is anyone on the treasury benches who knows what it is to be out of work and to fear for the financial security of one's family. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do. I lived with a father who was unemployed, and I know what that can do to a family. That serves as the main basis for my disgust at the government's performance.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: Also, sir, I have no respect at all for members of the NDP who hypocritically claim to be the friends of the working men. They couldn't care less for the working man in the oil industry. I would like them, before joining in this hallelujah chorus of praise for the Prime Minister's policy, to pause a moment and think about the ordinary working man and woman whose jobs are now in jeopardy or whose jobs have already been lost. And if they ever do stop to think of anything beyond their own political survival, I would ask them to consider for a moment the working people of Quebec and the Atlantic provinces who are getting the back of the hand through this policy that the NDP endorses.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. I regret having to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired. The hon. member for Verdun (Mr. Mackasey).

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I took careful note of the time the hon. member started, and he still has two minutes to go.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I would remind the hon. member that he is not the time-keeper of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I quite appreciate that I am not the time-keeper of the House, but I thought that perhaps Your Honour failed to recognize the fact that the hon. member had two minutes to go.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I had recognized the hon. member for Verdun.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Verdun): Mr. Speaker, a mere five minutes is hardly enough time to do credit to a subject such as the energy policy. I was very interested in the remarks of the hon. gentleman who preceded me, who spent 20 minutes reading a very scurrilous attack on the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Andre.]

Mr. Mackasey: Then, Mr. Speaker, he had the audacity to say he was concerned about the working people of Alberta, although he did not have the courage to get up from his seat to complain when the government of Alberta lacked the courage to impose the type of tax that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources put on oil exports.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mackasey: The hon. member did not have the courage to get up from his seat and point out that the government of Alberta was quite prepared to see the crude oil that belongs to the people of Alberta sold at bargain prices, as a sop to the big industry interests. When he talks about the minister not having courage, I would remind members of the party opposite who feel upset that they are unable to get the NDP to support them tonight, that their moment of truth came on July 4 last when they could have supported the NDP on a tax bill and defeated the government, if they had had a mind to do so.

Mr. Baldwin: Talk to Jack Davis.

Mr. Mackasey: The hon. member had 20 minutes to talk about hypocrisy. I will say something plain and simple. Even if his party ever formed the government, I do not think the hon. member would have the capacity to be even in that cabinet. Earlier in the day the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) said the Quebec members had sold out their province. I would remind him that it was the Quebec members who, in the last 12 years, had to fight in this House for greater French Canadian participation in the public service, for a greater say in national decisions; and then when they went home on week-ends they had to fight against the separatists in their own province.

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We had the courage to go home after the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) speech the other night knowing full well that the price of gasoline in the east would be higher than in the west. We also had the courage to tell our constituents that for many years it was just the opposite—the people on the west of the line had to pay a higher price for their fuel. Once again the people of Quebec accepted, as Premier Bourassa mentioned today, a premium for the people in the west for the sake of national unity.

Mr. Speaker, we can talk about Quebec members and about Alberta members such as the one who just sat down, who is a typical example. Neither he nor any other member of the Alberta delegation can deny that that province was quite prepared to sell its crude oil at bargain prices, to the point that the National Energy Board threatened to cut off the export of oil from Alberta to the United States.

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

An hon. Member: You are wrong.

Mr. Mackasey: When the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has the courage, by placing a border tax on that gasoline, to divert the windfall to the Canadian people and the working people of Alberta, the anger of hon. members opposite is beyond all bounds.