

National Energy Program

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Naturally I would not want to describe the statements of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), because that would call for unparliamentary language. But I ask the Chair to consider whether it is appropriate for the minister of energy, under the guise of a statement on motions, to make a speech which is not only, in my submission and to use words which I believe are parliamentary, inaccurate, but also to use this opportunity to make a simply unvarnished, partisan speech which does not carry the benefit of the truth.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: To answer that point of order, I am sure the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) recognizes that the hon. minister is making a statement and that he is free to make a statement in the manner that he wishes. Unfortunately the Chair has no power and no desire to intervene in the style of any hon. member of the House.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I only have a few minutes remaining.

Miss MacDonald: It is tough to back down, Marc.

Mr. Lalonde: I am sorry it is getting so close to home for the Conservative Party and its leader. In effect, the record speaks for itself.

Mr. Clark: Yes, indeed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: Last year we had Bill C-48, the Canada Oil and Gas Act, which provided for much more Canadian participation and control of Canada lands which belong to the people of Canada. What did we see? We stood for Canadianization at that time, and the Conservatives voted no.

An hon. Member: We saw confiscation.

Mr. Lalonde: There are a number of bills which are now before the House—Bill C-101, Bill C-102, Bill C-103, Bill C-104 and Bill C-105. They all stand for Canadianization. On every one of those bills the Conservatives voted no.

Surely this is evidence, if evidence is needed after Conservative efforts to destroy Petro-Canada, that the Tories have opposed every measure brought forward to promote Canadianization in the country.

Mr. Huntington: That is because we support the people.

Mr. Clark: Tell us about Alsands.

Mr. Ouellet: Order!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lalonde: What we are doing now is what the Conservatives promised to do in 1974. This is what they oppose today on every occasion, in every forum, under the guise of any justification. Conservatives now dismiss Canadianization as being confiscation—and I heard that word being used opposite tonight—or theft and piracy. We on this side of the House believe that Canada's natural resources are owned by all Canadians and should be developed to the benefit of the Canadian community.

Mr. Clark: Is this why you chase our producers to the United States?

Mr. Lalonde: Petro-Canada today has been restored to full health—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: We have the evidence tonight that the Conservatives have not accepted it as yet. The Conservative energy critic warned Canadians that "PetroCan is here for the moment and there's not much we can do about it. We'll see what the situation will be once we're back in power".

Finally, a radio interviewer asked the Conservative energy critic to offer a constructive alternative to the NEP. The hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) then replied: "Of course we have alternatives to offer to get rid of the National Energy Program. We would replace it with what you had before." That is the Conservative view of the future—a return to the past.

● (2050)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: For Canadians the choice is clear—

Mr. Clark: Turn and run, Marc!

Mr. Lalonde:—this government's National Energy Program or the Conservative Party's no energy program.

Mr. Clark: Turn and run!

Mr. Lalonde: The National Energy Program represents a bold initiative. Canadians, under those programs, are taking their energy future in their own hands, determined to build on their energy strengths. Much has been accomplished. Much remains to be done.

Mr. Taylor: More socialism!

Mr. Lalonde: Tonight, I have spoken of measures we have taken in the areas of production, conservation and oil substitution. There have been changes in the past. No doubt there will be changes in the future.

Mr. Clark: What's next, Marc?

Mr. Lalonde: However, our fundamental commitment—