

*Oil and Gas*

Canada because of a shortage. However, in its issue of July 10, 1973, the *Chronicle-Herald* said this:

[*English*]

Possible oil reserves off the Canadian east coast, as estimated . . .

[*Translation*]

estimated not by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but by the Canadian Petroleum Association.

[*English*]

. . . is 32 trillion barrels of oil and 110-115 trillion cubic feet of gas.

By comparison, the proven oil reserves in the North Sea are 12 billion barrels and 64 trillion cubic feet of gas, he said.

[*Translation*]

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of rot in those comments of the minister who tries to make us believe that there is a shortage of oil products in Canada, that we may perhaps soon have to face it due to his improvidence, his lack of information and drive, because he did not have enough foresight to help the companies to develop the Canadian oil fields and since also the companies are interested in keeping their profits at a high level by inducing a shortage of petroleum products. Moreover, we could read on page 6 of *La Presse* dated May 31, 1971, that is two years ago: "A sea of oil under the turbulent waters of the Hudson Bay?"—

I do not have enough time to give particulars on the result of inquiries carried out in Canada but which are kept secret by multinational companies controlling prices, as established by the conclusions of a senatorial inquiry conducted in the United States. Those companies also control the market as well as our Canadian production. Indeed, there is no doubt that Canada, especially Quebec, have extremely rich oil resources. Here is a good one. An election took place recently in the province of Quebec and the party in power used the following motto: Bourassa builds up. As a matter of fact, they promised to build an oil refinery in eastern Quebec and a deep-waters harbour for supertankers in Gros-Cacouna. But there is certainly a lack of communication between the federal and the provincial government for I cannot believe that they promised to build a harbour for supertankers if there is no more oil. They could just as well have promised to build bridges over nonexistent rivers.

• (2100)

Mr. Speaker, this is just about what happened in the province of Quebec. The solutions that we had to propose were very plain. First, we must take stock of our energy needs for the next 25 years in Canada; second, we must maintain an inventory of oil products to meet the demand for the next 25 years as well; we must also grant a special retail discount on oil products in order to encourage consumers to use Canadian oil products. We must oblige multinational corporations to re-invest their profits at home. We must supervise research expenditures of multinational corporations that are now secured through taxes and are only designed to divert money from tax authorities. We must ensure through research activities that the whole energy potential in Canada is known by the government. We must also provide research grants to private individuals who want to develop new forms of energy

[Mr. Rondeau.]

which eventually will be beneficial substitutes for the products that we know today.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will have to smarten up, to be a little more energetic and stop sheepishly following a policy prescribed by multinational oil companies.

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. While my colleague from Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) was making very pertinent remarks on behalf of my party, he has been harassed—and I am a witness as are some of my colleagues—by the Quebec members of another political party.

Mr. Speaker, we are very far from the Chair. These members' attitude is ill-advised; perhaps they are interested in protecting the power, but since we are the only Quebec members of the opposition both in Ottawa and in Quebec, we have the right to express our views and we are entitled to the respect of this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege, I would like the House to realize that when the hon. member is saying sensible things, I am all ears.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) has risen on a point of order. I listened with interest. I must admit that perhaps there have been some interruptions while the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) was bringing his most interesting contribution to the debate, but I must suggest that the hon. member was addressing the Chair, and that I have listened to him with attention and interest.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for Joliette, because I know that he always listens to the Créditistes, since we always say something sensible.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. My understanding is that we will now return to the question period for 20 minutes.

[*Translation*]

I think that we now ought to get back to oral questions for a period of approximately 20 minutes, after which we will resume the debate which was interrupted at six p.m.