

Works the other day. These figures are for the 12-month period ending June 30, 1974. Our production in that period is estimated at an average of 2,008,000 barrels per day, and we exported in that period 1,206,000 barrels per day. We consumed, in Canada, 1,751,000 barrels per day. To meet the deficit as a result of these large exports, we imported 949,000 barrels per day. If you look at these figures it is apparent that in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1974, Canada exported 60 per cent of its production. We shipped out of this country 30 per cent more than we brought in. If some person came from another planet he would not believe that intelligent people would allow their rapidly dwindling resources to be shipped out of the country without a word, and knowing at the same time that their supplies were close to exhaustion.

To crown this indignity, the government is getting ready to sign an international agreement which, in an emergency, will require Canadians to reduce their consumption of petroleum products in Canada while at the same time maintaining our normal exports of oil to the United States. I say to the government that it would be well to think very carefully before signing that agreement. The government's excuse for this deplorable situation is that we must export our western oil because there is no way in which we can ship it to the area east of the Ottawa Valley. This merely proves the contention that our oil policy has been industry-dominated rather than people-oriented.

Interprovincial Pipe Line has never wanted to build a pipeline from western Canada to Quebec and the Atlantic provinces because its parent company, Exxon, controls the Venezuelan oil fields and has always wanted a captive market in eastern Canada for oil which has a high sulphur content and is difficult to dispose of elsewhere. The result is that while in Canada we produce sufficient oil to meet our own needs, we still have to export 60 per cent of our production because we do not have the pipeline facilities through which to take that oil from the parts of Canada where it is produced to the areas where it is required.

About a year ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised that a pipeline would be constructed to Montreal. There were two possible routes; from Sarnia to Montreal, or an all-Canadian route through northern Ontario and Quebec. The government said that while it would provide greater security for us to use the northern line, that would take a year longer and consequently it selected the less desirable route from Sarnia to Montreal. After a year, where are we? Not only is the line not started, but the application to build the line has not yet been dealt with by the National Energy Board. Interprovincial Pipe Line has asked for an adjournment, and an indefinite adjournment has been granted. The fact is that Interprovincial Pipe Line is dragging its feet. One cannot help but ask, who is running this country?

In answer to a question of mine the other day, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) said—and I do not lay the blame for all of this situation in Canada at his feet; he inherited the result of 20 years of negligence and maladministration; he is one of the most knowledgeable ministers we have had in this field, and I think he is valiantly trying to deal with the situation—he was prepared to consider the alternative of having the

Oil and Petroleum

government build the pipeline. We are always considering alternatives, but we have come to the time when something must be done.

I want to suggest a number of aspects of a national oil policy which have to be dealt with by this parliament. The bill before us is part of it, and the bill which is on the order paper to set up a national petroleum company is part of it; but there are many aspects of this question which ought to be brought together into a Canadian oil policy. Let me suggest, first, that it is not too early to institute measures for voluntary curtailment of petroleum consumption in this country. If Canadians were told that there will be a gap between the time our western oil supplies run out and the time new supplies from the tar sands and from frontier areas come into production, they would co-operate in reducing consumption. A reduction in consumption can be brought about without any hardship, and we ought to be asking for public co-operation to that end. I am not suggesting that any curtailment of consumption would solve the problem, but it would increase the lead time we have in finding other supplies of oil and natural gas.

My second proposal is that we should start, now, to drastically reduce our exports of crude oil. Some of our western oil could be moved east. If the pipeline were built, of course, we could move quite a bit of it. Some could be moved down the St. Lawrence Seaway, some by the Panama Canal, and some by rail; but if we could not ship all the oil that is surplus in western Canada it would do no harm to leave some of it in the ground, because we are certainly going to need it in the very near future.

The third proposal I make is that we should get on at once with the construction of a pipeline to take western oil into the province of Quebec and eventually to the Atlantic provinces. We in this party would prefer the all-Canadian route through northern Ontario and Quebec: it would give us greater security and would serve an area in Canada where a petrochemical industry and other industrial operations could be established. I do not think it will take any longer, if we begin right away to build an all-Canadian northern line, than if we sit around waiting for the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company to make up its mind and for the minister to summon up courage to do something about it.

● (1650)

Somebody must tell the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company either to begin construction of this pipeline or the government will move in. As a matter of fact, it is inconceivable to me that when the government a year ago decided it would agree to the building of this pipeline, it did not obtain an understanding from Interprovincial Pipe Line Company that if the National Energy Board approved the line, it would proceed with construction, otherwise months would be wasted with no result.

The government ought to move boldly. It has an obligation to the people who live east of the Ottawa Valley. The present situation in the Middle East is so precarious that no one can be sure that oil will be available from that area in the next few months, particularly if war should break out between the Israel the Arab nations. If that should happen, even at the very best estimate the people east of