

Summer Recess

must have some changes in our energy policies. I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) and the Minister of Finance will come back to this House with a few ideas on how to effect these changes.

I would like briefly to refer to the economic record of this government. In terms of inflation we rank second. The only country which has a higher inflation rate than Canada over the last 12 months is Italy. In terms of unemployment we have the third highest rate at 7.3 per cent. We are not leading in economic growth either; we are down at the bottom. We are number five at 0 per cent growth over the last 12 months.

Those are the economic problems which this country is facing, problems which must be solved over the next three months. This is what ministers opposite must go home and think about. They must consult with their experts. Hopefully, they will consult with people in the private sector who have some understanding of what is happening in the real world today. We can only hope that they will come back with some new ideas and fresh solutions to the problems we now face.

I would like to refer to a document which I have in front of me. It says, "The National Energy Program will work." That is a bit of a joke. It says, "Oil and gas supply will be enhanced". Let me ask members opposite how oil and gas supply will be enhanced by the suspension of the Cold Lake project, the possible suspension of the Alsands project over the next few months, plus the marginal wells which are being shut down by the production tax. How will that enhance supply?

I wish to refer to another comment in this document. It says that the oil and gas industry will continue to be the envy of every other major industry in Canada with its rapid growth rate and high rates of return. That is nonsense. That is why investors are looking elsewhere to spend their money. This is why U.S. companies are selling out and moving their capital outside the country.

Mr. Peterson: Oh, come on!

Mr. Wilson: I am sure the hon. member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson) will be able to tell his former clients how envious companies are of the Cold Lake project and how people in Imperial Oil are having to shut down that project because of the lack of agreement between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the minister of energy in Alberta.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson: After 16 months we have had nothing but total failure in terms of our energy policy in this country. I would like to talk about that failure. We have had 16 months without agreements being reached with Saskatchewan, British Columbia or Alberta. We have had 16 months in which 40 per cent of our rigs will have left the country by the end of August. We have had 16 months of inaction on the part of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who tells us that he is negotiating. Yet we all know that is a charade. He does not want to reach an agreement; he wants to impose, impose,

impose, as he did last October. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, he will do it again. We have had 16 months of failure to come to grips with the over-reliance on oil supply from the Middle East. The biggest failure in that 16 months came just two weeks ago. I was absolutely shocked by the attitude of the minister—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. Al MacBain (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to enter into the adjournment debate at this point. The postal matter is in the hands of the mediator. The uranium cartel matter is in the hands of the courts. Therefore, the best course to follow is to leave them alone for now. Let us get the members of Parliament back to their ridings to meet their constituents to find out what positions we should take on various matters when we come back in the fall.

I have before me the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on Alternative Energy and Oil Substitution. It is an excellent report compiled by the members of all parties who served on that committee. I am extremely proud of each and every one of them. By showing members the report tonight I hope they will take it home with them and read it during the summer recess, if they have not already had the opportunity to do so. I hope the public will ask their members for copies of the report, regardless of which party their members belong to.

I want to make particular reference to two members of that committee. They were not Liberal members. The hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Gurbin), who was in the House a few minutes ago, lent to the committee his considerable experience in science.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacBain: The chairman, the hon. member for Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle (Mr. Lefebvre), was very proud of him and all members of the committee. The other member of the committee who I wish to mention is the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose). When I came to the committee I came as a supply man and not as a conservation or demand man. From my experience I thought we could almost do anything in Canada, and in the world, not only in energy but anything we really set our minds to. But from the very beginning the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody, in his eloquent manner and in a very considered way, made our chairman and all the members of the committee aware of the importance of conservation and demand to the energy scenario in this country and the world.

Tonight I wish to give my overview of the world energy situation without getting into detail, since at this hour of the night, as we near the time of adjournment, I know hon. members do not want to get into detail. However, let me say that I think we can all agree that energy is the life blood of a modern society.

● (2110)

I say to every hon. member of this House, regardless of party, that if there is an energy shortage in this country at any