

Energy

deign to stay in the House to hear the NDP representative and added to the insult by leaving before the minister responsible could reply to the parties of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that our friends on the other side have anything to teach us. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who especially now has awesome responsibilities to bear, has always shown great respect for the House of Commons and the Canadian people and he will continue to do so, I am sure.

I would also like to refer to another point that my friend made in his speech when he was disagreeing with our government's statements on revenue sharing in the oil field. He objected to the figures we quoted, specifically to the fact that the provinces and the industry each receive about 45 per cent of revenues while the federal government receives 10 per cent. Obviously if we go back to the fifties or even the sixties those figures are no longer valid. Even at the beginning of the seventies, revenue sharing had not reached those percentages. We are only considering the figures for the period 1975 to 1979 during which the oil crisis reached its peak throughout the world. If we go back on these years, Mr. Speaker, we note that the provinces' share of the revenues for those five years was 36 per cent in 1975, 40.8 per cent in 1976, 47.1 per cent in 1977, 46.3 per cent in 1978 and 46.5 per cent in 1979. I think, Mr. Speaker, that averages around 45 per cent.

What about the industry's share? In 1975, it received 53 per cent of the revenues, in 1976, 48.8 per cent, in 1977, 41.3 per cent, in 1978, 44.2 per cent and in 1979, 43.4 per cent. As for the federal share, I said earlier 10 per cent. In 1975, it was 10.4 per cent, in 1976, 10.4 per cent, in 1977, 11.6 per cent, in 1978, 9.5 per cent and in 1979, 10.1 per cent. Those are the figures published by our department and which our minister has quoted many times. In view of the figures provided, I feel that those who claim the federal government is putting forward inaccurate data are wrong. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the federal government's share during the crucial years of the energy crisis has been, as I said, approximately 10 per cent. On top of this, because of our government's involvement in the oil industry, which has increased its responsibilities, it is true that our revenue in that area is not very high.

● (2010)

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that whenever the energy issue is raised in the House, it seems to bother and disturb our hon. friends opposite. And with reason, I think. This afternoon, our friend, the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. LaSalle) dealt with the so-called surrender of our government in this area and he tried to make the point that the gas tax had increased in spite of our commitment to the contrary; we must not forget, however, the increase the official opposition wanted to impose when it was in power. If we had been compelled to bear this increase on top of the other, the total increase would have been over 18 cents a gallon. But our friend from Joliette also said

that the federal government, our government, had done nothing about the oil situation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give some dates and facts. Obviously, I shall not go back to 1963, when we came to power, because I think it would put some of our friends to shame. Let me go back no further than February 1973, when the Hon. Donald Macdonald announced that from then on oil exports be regulated by the National Energy Board and be constantly monitored. On September 4, 1973, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) announced a price freeze on oil products and suggested abandoning the 1961 national oil policy which, by the way, had been put into place by the former government of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. On October 1, 1973, a tax was imposed on oil exports. In January 1974, the oil import compensation program was implemented.

A compromise was reached and it was agreed that the price of Canadian oil would be frozen until March 31, 1974, and that eastern Canada consumers of imported oil would be subsidized, to standardize the domestic price of crude oil. On January 14, 1974, two important bills were given royal assent, Bill C-236, the Energy Supplies Emergency Act, and Bill C-245, the Oil Export Tax Act.

On March 27, 1974, the oil price was raised to \$6.50 a barrel effective April 1. On April 8, 1974, the then minister, Mr. Macdonald, tabled the Petroleum Administration Act and on October 25 of that same year the act received royal assent, that is after the 1974 general election. On July 30, 1975, the famous Petro-Canada Act received royal assent. On December 12, 1975, the general agreements on oil price increases were signed. On June 23, 1977, the then minister, Mr. Gillespie, announced the new curves prices would follow until January 1 1979, in other words from July 1, 1977, domestic price for crude would increase by \$1 a barrel every six months until January 1, 1979. On November 30, 1978, once again the minister announced that oil prices would go up as expected on January 1, 1979. On February 8, 1979, the minister then announced an emergency plan and on March 29 Bill C-42, the Energy Supplies Emergency Act received royal assent.

Briefly, Mr. Speaker, those are the actions the Liberal government has taken since 1973 with respect to oil.

If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, I would like now to look at the performance of our friends across the way when they were in power. On June 20, 1979, the then minister of energy, mines and resources, Mr. Hnatyshyn, announced an increase in oil prices. On October 8, 1979, Premier Lougheed and the then prime minister, Mr. Clark, could not agree on an oil price. On November 14 of the same year, the meeting between Premier Lougheed and the prime minister failed.

On November 23 of the same year, the then prime minister threatened to take unilateral action. On December 27 of the same year, there was still no agreement between Premier Lougheed and the prime minister. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, on December 11, 1979, the minister of finance of the government of the day introduced his disastrous budget, and