

*Energy*

They do not care about taxi drivers, truck drivers, farmers or independent businessmen. I have not seen the price of gas coming down, but this weekend in Britain a major producer of North Sea oil said:

The government reduced their oil prices by \$2 per barrel and there are indications that further reductions of up to \$5 per barrel are anticipated.

Has the government dropped the price of oil because Britain has been able to drop its price? They did not wish to raise the price when world prices went up. What are they doing to lower the price when world prices go down?

In Mexico, the director of Pemex, the national oil company, reduced the price of Mexican crude by \$4 to \$30.60 per barrel this past weekend. What has the government done, wherever it is, to lower the price of oil because it is being lowered in Mexico?

Also this past weekend in Malaysia, the state oil company, Petronas, cut its crude prices for the second month in a row. The government raises prices when world prices are going down. When they campaign for an election, they think they fool the people of Canada who gave them a mandate to hold prices down or to hold the gas tax to no more than 14 cents, according to the Prime Minister.

In his speech today, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said that they were implementing a new system, that that was their election promise. Sure, they are implementing a new system, they can tack on 9 cents overnight. The people of Canada are not being fooled; the government will not get away with it.

Also in his speech today the same parliamentary secretary said that the government would acquire oil companies for the benefit of Canadians. What is the benefit of acquiring Petrofina at \$1.6 billion of taxpayers' money? It is not putting one drop of oil into the country. It is not creating any new jobs and, to add insult to injury, the government is paying for the company almost twice what it is worth. That is what happens when the country allows the liberal democratic party, the socialist party, to be in power. The only thing Liberals can envisage is everything in public ownership. What will this mean for Ontario?

If the government has no reservations or guilty feelings about public ownership and continuing to lose money, what will Canadians think when they drive up to service stations, produce their Government of Canada credit cards to buy gasoline, and pay exactly the same for that gasoline, whether it is Gulf, Shell, Imperial Oil or the Government of Canada? What did this government do with its big rip-off on that wellhead tax?

● (2020)

I rose in this House not four weeks ago and told the government that it was criticizing the oil companies for ripping off the public and making excessive profits on products on which they were not even entitled to make profits. At that time I asked the government how much it was going to refund the people of Canada for the illegal wellhead tax rip-off which Petrofina, and now Petro-Canada through its subsidiaries right

across this country, are making. I also phoned members of the executive of Petro-Canada and asked how much they would be refunding the people of Canada out of the rip-off tax they were collecting? They said that their prices were determined by the marketplace. That is the policy of Petro-Canada. They will get the top dollar for every gallon of gas they sell to eastern Canada. They will get the top price for oil, which has gone up 50 per cent in price since this government came into office.

I say to the people of Canada that they can look forward to a glorious day when the Government of Canada, the bureaucracy and the civil servants shove the nozzle of the gas hose into the tanks of their cars. And they will do this, not to give Canadians cheaper energy and not to hold the price of oil down, but to gouge Canadians for every cent they can get to feed the government's insatiable appetite—a government which spends 25 per cent more than it takes in every year. This is a government which has no thought about where the money will come from.

Do you know who will own Canada, Mr. Speaker? Kuwait, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina and countries such as those will own us. If we sold every nickel's worth of stock on the Toronto Stock Exchange tomorrow, we could not pay off our national debt of \$100 billion. The government cannot even afford to pay the annual interest on the debt. It budgeted for a \$14 billion loss this year—and this is the government which was going to hold the deficit down. This is the government which was going to keep expenses down to within its revenue. This government betrayed and befuddled the people of Canada. It conned them into believing that it has some answers when, in reality, all it has is more problems and a \$100 billion deficit.

I would like to give two examples of how little this government cares about the people of Canada today through the policies it has in place. First, there is UFFI, urea formaldehyde foam insulation. The government knew back in 1977 that this product was no good. The report concerning this product is with the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) is also aware of it. What did the government do? It approved grants under CHIP for the installation of a dangerous substance into the homes of Canadians. What is the government doing now to solve the problem to which it contributed in large part? Absolutely nothing. It is studying the study which was just completed, which study studied the study which was done in 1978, which verified that in 1977 this was considered to be a dangerous commodity.

The members of this House have a moral obligation to the people of Canada to pay for the testing of their homes. This government does not care. It does not care about oil prices, gas prices, energy prices, insulation costs or government expenditures. All it cares about is getting elected to office. The members of the government party will do it with the aid of the socialist party to my left every time there is a division in this House. Every time there is a vote in this House they all bow down to Allah. They all hold up their hands and go marching down the aisle to a republican Canada, a socialist country.