

Oil and Petroleum

healthy resource industries. The province of Alberta is showing itself to be a great Canadian citizen by giving up \$5.20 per barrel of oil, almost \$6 million per day, or \$1.3 million per year, to eastern Ontario. Do not misunderstand me: we are giving it graciously to our fellow citizens east of the Ottawa Valley. The wealth of others is of great concern to us.

Before closing I should like to mention one other matter. This party asked that a pipeline be constructed that would secure a supply of energy to eastern Canada and prevent the outflow of money to the coffers of the already over-rich. This pipeline should have been built long ago. Its existence would have eliminated much of the discussion in which we are involved today and it would give us security of supply in the event of another energy crisis. In closing, I would offer a word of caution and advice to the government. Do not lose sight of the fact that past experience has proven that free enterprise and initiative are better alternatives to the development of a country than the socialization of its successful industries.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of attention to the remarks of the previous speaker. Bill C-32 concerns the use of the exportation of our natural resources such as gas, oil, wood, any sector of our economy. It clearly shows that the government cannot make its own decisions, and that it has to rely on the scientific and financial advice it receives from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Canada should tell to the United States and to any other country: "We are our own men. We have natural resources and you envy us for this." They do envy us because they do not have such resources. They are equipped for processing products and we are taken advantage of by those who purchase our raw materials.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is better to tax Canadian exports to the United States than to tax Canadians. In any event, we note that the United States seem to have complete control over the development of our natural resources, and not only over oil and oil products.

When we listen to Premiers Barrett of British Columbia, Lougheed of Alberta, Blakeney of Saskatchewan and Schreyer of Manitoba, we are astounded to hear that they are threatening to separate from Canada and join the United States if we do not accept their conditions.

I am as much in favour of the Western provinces as I am of the Eastern provinces.

Some 30 or 40 years ago, when there was a drought in the West and oil had not been discovered yet, the Eastern provinces were solicited, taxed and forced to accept certain conditions to help the Western provinces who were suffering most terrible hardships.

Mr. Speaker, we did not object to that, even though we heard some people say: "We are tired of supporting the West."

Nowadays, we hear the same type of people in the West say: "We have oil." Not so long ago, Mr. Harridence, a separatist from Alberta,—I appeared on television with him in Toronto—was saying:

[English]

"Let those eastern bastards freeze in the dark". Those were the words from your province.

An hon. Member: No, they were from Alberta.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): They speak in exactly the same way as the NDP out there.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) calls me Réal. At least, he knows my first name, as he knows also that I am right, because the situation is the same in Saskatchewan, not in the oil industry but in the potash industry. That government said: "Let us control it". Effectively it took over the industry, but prices are now three times higher in Saskatchewan.

[English]

An hon. Member: What about cars? Tell us about cars.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): The same thing applies. Why aren't you going to Europe to buy yourself a car? They are all built in the United States.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I have no objection at all to the Premiers of those provinces standing up and saying: Well, we have resources and Eastern people must suffer because we do have those oil resources.

Mr. Speaker, I never heard anything like this in the province of Quebec, except from the mouth of separatists: Let the Westerners starve, we have too much fish, but let them die and dry up, because we are overproducing.

In 1929, 1930, 1931, 1935 and 1936, that is during the Depression, we in Eastern Canada have made every sacrifice to maintain farmers in Western Canada, and we did it without grumbling.

● (1600)

An hon. Member: We still are!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): We are still making sacrifices without grumbling. Today, we hear these people from Alberta, like Mr. Harridence, a lawyer, trying to teach us something. And a lawyer is supposed to be intelligent.

An hon. Member: He is supposed to!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): But he is not, that is clear, if he says that he was glad to let Easterners freeze in the dark.

An hon. Member: Tell that to Mr. Wagner.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Repeat that.

The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) is not here at the moment and I want to stay in order.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand that kind of attitude. There are in Canada so much space and so many resources, enough to meet the needs of all Canadians, not only in one region, but all across Canada.