in real hardships for many Canadians, particularly those on low or fixed incomes who have to face the realities of our cold climate and high distribution costs. Daniel Yergin of Harvard University in his 1982 book "Global Insecurity" calculates that, for the industrial nations, the oil price increases since 1973 have doubled unemployment rates and tripled the pace of inflation. The Canadian economy has been hard hit by domestic energy pricing policy and our unemployment lines are long as a result of government and oil industry energy policies.

A case might be made for high oil and gas prices if they were necessary, as the industry often alleges, to ensure adequate domestic energy reserves for future needs. Unfortunately, for Canadians, this has not proven to be true. As Chart 4 (attached) illustrates, accessible conventional crude oil reserves peaked in 1969 and it has been downhill ever since. (CPA claims a minor increase occurred in 1983 as a result of additions in the heavy oil category but admitted that reserves of the type that can be refined in Canada dropped by seven per cent.) The ominous decline of the past 14 years transpired in spite of unprecedented wellhead price increases in excess of 1000 per cent - from $3. to $38. per barrel for oil discovered after 1974. The self-serving economic argument of price elasticity enhancing supply has not been borne out. At the same time the huge energy price increases have reduced the competitiveness of Canadian manufacturing industries - as Dow Chemical has