

forward by this government. It turns my stomach to vote with the government on anything.

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, it always grieves me to sit in the House and see a minister treat the truth with the frivolity with which it has been treated tonight. The minister cannot be accused of anything more serious than frivolity as he sat and listened to the remarks of the two previous speakers. I wish to join them in one regard, and that is in believing that this is evil legislation. It is typical of a government which cannot make up its mind about what it wants, which wants to be given free rein to regulate and to do as it sees fit at any given moment, without respect for legislation which might control its action in a resource as important to Canada as energy.

● (2132)

This is a measure of incompetence in draftsmanship, ideology, planning and capability. It is a mockery of government, and the minister is the instrument of the mockery. His light-hearted treatment, and that of other members of the government, does not indicate any sense of responsibility in a subject matter which has the seriousness of this bill. If the government had not imposed and superimposed frivolous taxes, which were demeaning to the resource industries of this country including the oil industry, we would not have to reach into the public coffers of provincial or federal treasuries to finance private enterprise in a field which could be an opportunity for them and Canada. Because of delay in decisions, regulations and procrastination, now we have to give the government the capability of dealing as it sees fit according to its ideologies.

Regardless of the needs of Canada, the government will unquestionably take the years in time, as they have done in the past. In the six years it has been my privilege to be here, we have not had progressive and developmental legislation. Also we have not had progressive research in energy, nor a national conscience. We have had an element of subsidy collected from Canadians to equalize energy costs. Beyond that, the government has nothing constructive to go into the hustings with at this moment in time. Whether it be the Newfoundland picture, the British Columbia picture or the New Brunswick picture, they are equally deplorable in results and inflationary in their tendencies. Delay has meant inflation and extra costs to Canadians.

One must remember that representatives went to New Brunswick in an attempt to deal in Washington on behalf of the LNG project which was approved by the National Energy Board. They went to Washington to negotiate and were advised by people in high places, I have been informed by reliable sources, that they could not look with much favour on an LNG project in New Brunswick because Canada is now classified as one of those unreliable foreign sources of energy. The minister must take that upon his shoulders as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He has all the gas which has been piped in by the Liberal government and all the shenanigans surrounding TransCanada. That is already in Toronto. Now, we have to speak from eastern Canada, because no one

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on the government side will speak for them. The government has proven itself to be a bunch of political Liberal hyenas. Those were the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Government members are well trained and obedient.

The eastern coast of Canada has refining capabilities which were built in the days when international relations between Canada and the United States were amicable and reliable. Not one of those is presently operating at capacity, because of the term which was used in high places in Washington—that Canada is one of those foreign and unreliable sources of energy, and on the long-term basis Canada cannot be dealt with confidently.

Not so long ago, in a blind move of stupidity, the former minister of energy, mines and resources shut off the shipments of oil and refined products from east coast refineries to the state of Maine and to points south. Those contracts have not been renewed. The refinery which was supplying Maine was built in good faith that there would be a long-term, reliable, friendly structure between Canada and the United States. That has not developed. We are subject to duty. We do not get the same privileges, as other countries, to move refined products from Canada to the United States. We are one of the few who cannot do that because we are an unfriendly and unreliable source of energy.

I attempted to resolve this by commencing negotiations in a quiet, non-political manner. I approached the ministers of the cabinet in the maritime provinces. I asked for some immediate and meaningful negotiation along these lines. I have received no reply from them. I have seen no sign of interest, except that they would be happy to meet, when I suggested that they should initiate a meeting and get in touch with me.

The government of Canada should take a look at the eastern coast. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) should express some concern for the energy sources presently existing there, which could put products in Canadian hands on a cheaper basis if plants were operating at capacity to supply the east coast of North America. Whether it be Newfoundland, whether it be in the Canso Strait, or whether it be on the Bay of Fundy, these plants deserve strong, hard selling by the government of Canada, and a strong conviction that it will be a long term, friendly and reliable contract.

I appeal to the minister: in the name of all that is good for Canada, we must get these shipments moving again. We must get these refineries working at capacity again. We must make a deal for LNG which Americans can trust. Proper consideration must be given to fisheries and the environment, as was suggested by the National Energy Board. We must provide some of the people in eastern Canada, who are presently unemployed, with a chance at just a few jobs in the field of energy. It will be contributory to a better long-term supply for us and a lower cost when these plants are operating at capacity. There is an increment of income available to the government of Canada if these plants continue to operate. It would be beneficial to all of Canada. I appeal to the government on behalf of Atlantic Canada. It is strange that \$1 billion