

**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26***[English]***NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM****CANCELLATION OF PROPOSED ALSANDS MEGAPROJECT**

**Madam Speaker:** Leave has been granted to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) to move the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the collapse of the Alsands megaproject and the postponement for at least two years of the Alaska highway natural gas pipeline.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition)** moved:

That this House do now adjourn.

He said: Madam Speaker, we are meeting tonight to discuss not simply a crisis in the life of the country but a crisis of a kind and of a cause that this country has not seen before. It is a crisis which, in a time of economic recession around the world and acute economic hardship at home, is caused by the fact that instead of taking action which could create jobs and create growth, the Government of Canada has taken consecutive actions which are destroying jobs, which are destroying growth and which are destroying opportunity for the country to become secure in the one area, energy, where our security is most possible and where our security is most important.

What we have seen with the Liberal government's energy policy, starting in March, 1980, has been the step by step destruction of the energy jobs, of the energy growth, of the energy industry and the energy potential of this country.

Tonight in this debate—and we will be here late into tomorrow morning and perhaps we will be here longer than that—we are here not simply to lament or to condemn what the government has been doing but to try to call upon the care for Canada that I hope exists in Liberal backbench ranks, to try to call upon them to urge their government to stop this terrible damage, this terrible and unnecessary damage which it is doing to our country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** I think it is important that we review what has happened and why it has happened.

First of all we have to put in perspective what the Liberal policy has been doing. We have recently seen the loss of the Alsands project. It was not just Alsands that was lost; we have also seen Cold Lake lost, we saw the Judy Creek tertiary recovery project lost, we saw the Syncrude expansion lost, we saw the heavy oil upgrading project in Saskatchewan lost, we have seen 270 drilling rigs and service rigs driven out of this country. These were drilling rigs and service rigs that were, by and large, owned, directed and controlled by Canadians and were turning the energy industry into a Canadian-controlled industry. Now they have picked up and moved, at great cost—not just cost in dollars but cost to our future. They are investing Canadian money, they are investing Canadian incentive

and intelligence not to create growth and jobs in this country but to create growth and jobs elsewhere.

It is not just energy that is at stake here; it is the very economic recovery of this country. Every expert you consult will agree that the energy potential of Canada is not simply a guarantee of our future but that it is the best way to lift this nation out of recession and the best way to guarantee the kind of economic strength and economic future that we all owe to our children.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** While I regret having to say this, I want to say it and I want to put it in the context of the national problem that exists: this is not just a problem for the west or for the north, although the Alsands project and the Alaska highway project touch those regions most directly—this is a problem for all of Canada. If you need proof of that you need only look at the government's own estimates of the jobs that would be involved.

All across Canada there would have been 255,050 potential jobs. These are not my figures, Mr. Speaker; they are the figures of the Government of Canada issued in 1978. There would have been 71,000 direct jobs in energy projects that the government boasted would be built. These energy projects have now been abandoned because of the step by step disintegration of the energy industry in this country by the Liberal government opposite.

We are, finally, not just speaking about the impact that will be felt today, but we are speaking also very dramatically about the impact that will be felt tomorrow in this country. Energy is one of the major keys to the future of this country. We have in Canada a potential that other nations do not have. We have in Canada the capacity to become self-sufficient in energy.

Let me review for a moment what this goal of self-sufficiency in energy can mean to this nation. It is, first of all, an achievable goal for Canada.

Let me say in passing that this is a nation which has always needed goals to lead it forward—not a list of failures but a list of challenges. The challenge of energy self-sufficiency was clearly an achievable goal for this country. Indeed, the government which my colleagues and I had the honour to serve had established the year of 1990 as the year of energy self-sufficiency in this country. That meant that by that year, with the policies we had firmly in place, the maritime provinces could have expected to be supplied with Canadian oil by 1990. What has happened is the reverse. As things now stand with this Liberal wrecking policy, there is a very good chance that by 1990 Toronto will be dependent on foreign imported oil.

**An hon. Member:** Shameful.

**Mr. Clark:** That is a shame. The word "shameful" is used by my colleague. That is the accurate word because that is a betrayal of this country, a betrayal of our promise, and it is something that no honest or courageous member of this Parliament should be prepared to stand.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!