

National Energy Program

It is interesting to note that in Saskatchewan or Alberta, which have no provincial tax, gas is cheaper than in the neighbouring states to the south. I would invite my colleagues to see for themselves—

Mr. Kilgour: That is a lie!

[*English*]

Madam Speaker: I ask the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour) to withdraw those words. They are unparliamentary, as he knows.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Kilgour: Madam Speaker, in my opinion, it is not true. I have the figures here to show he is wrong—

Madam Speaker: The hon. member will be able to discuss them at the proper time. It is perfectly normal for hon. members to disagree on the facts from time to time. In fact, sometimes the entire debate in Parliament consists in giving varying views of the facts. However, the hon. member knows perfectly well he may not use such unparliamentary language. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw those terms.

[*English*]

The Speaker heard them.

Mr. Kilgour: Madam Speaker, if I can make a phone call, I will return to the House and happily apologize if I am wrong. I am quite certain the minister is not telling the truth on the point he just made in the House.

Madam Speaker: That is totally irrelevant. It is for the purposes of this procedure that I am asking the hon. member to withdraw his words.

Hon. members may have different opinions as to what is true and what is not true, but they may not use the kind of language which the hon. member has just used to debate that point. I would ask the hon. member to co-operate and simply withdraw those which are unparliamentary. The hon. member knows that.

● (2040)

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Madam Speaker: Is the hon. member refusing to withdraw those words?

Mr. Kilgour: Madam Speaker, I am almost totally certain that I am correct. I cannot be absolutely certain unless I go and make a telephone call. Will you give me ten minutes to make that decision?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: I should like to accommodate the hon. member, but I ask him to accommodate the Chair and to withdraw those words which are unparliamentary.

Mr. Kilgour: With due respect to Madam Speaker's charm, I will withdraw the term.

Madam Speaker: I will accept that, but in future I ask hon. members not to refer to my charm.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, perhaps the following will refresh my hon. colleague's memory and help set his facts straight. I can state positively that in April 1982, the price of a litre of gas in Calgary was 34.5 cents and that in Montana, to the south, it was 37.3 cents, in other words, 2.8 cents more per litre than in Calgary. This was in April 1982. Perhaps my hon. colleague would care to check his facts. Madam Speaker, our oil pricing system is supposed to bring the price of oil up to a maximum that should not be reached until July of next year, namely, 75 per cent of the world price for conventional oil, and as far as the blended price is concerned, which includes the price we must pay for all imported oil and the price of oil from oil sands, we estimate that today's price is still less than 80 per cent of the world price. Those are the facts. If we look at the situation regarding natural gas, Canadians are even better off, since they can buy natural gas for only 65 per cent of the price of Canadian oil. The benefits are such that if we calculate the aggregate of benefits to all Canadians by 1986, the net result is that every Canadian man, woman and child will have saved \$2,500 per person by 1986, as a result of our pricing system here in Canada.

[*English*]

One of the major objectives of the National Energy Program has been the opportunity for Canadians to participate. Canadians know with certainty our commitment to energy security and Canadian opportunity. Canadians know the progress we have made over the past 18 months, and Canadians know that we will reach our target by 1990.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: Canadians should also know that the Conservative Party, which is shouting and complaining on the other side tonight, has regressed just as we are making progress. Eight years ago the Conservative Party made the following commitment:

To maximize the benefits to Canadians the Progressive Conservative Party believes that as a cornerstone of such a policy for the 1970s and the 1980s Canadians must dedicate themselves to acquiring and holding ownership of more than 50 per cent of the non-renewable resources industries in Canada. A Progressive Conservative government would take the lead in this direction—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: That is what the Crosbie budget did.

Mr. Lalonde: As a government for nine months and as an opposition party for the rest of the time, the Conservative Party has consistently opposed and obstructed our Canadianization measures while paying lip service to the concept.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!