

Canada Oil and Gas Act

that the very essence of my suggestions found its way into that energy policy—first the Canadian citizens, then the multinationals.

Some so-called experts tell us that we are wrong in not exacting from Canadian consumers the world price for oil. Others claim that we are creating an artificial economy and that sooner or later we will have to face reality. But where do they come from those who speak so? Why should we not avoid certain fads or tendencies, why should we allow ourselves to be hypnotized? Who says we have to give in to publicity every time it recommends that we get a new car?

Why should we be influenced by what happens elsewhere? Canada produces this raw material. Why not take advantage of this to deal from strength with our competitors? If France were an oil producer like Canada, would it submit to having its domestic prices set elsewhere? No, it would take advantage of the situation to restructure its economy. One can truly say now that everything is governed by energy prices. Those who have travelled in Europe are well aware of it. I just came back from there and it is astonishing what one has to pay for food and accommodation. Breakfast consisting of a small piece of bread and coffee costs \$12, rooms are \$100 to \$150, a glass of orange juice \$3, a soft drink \$3, and even bottled water is \$3, all of course, in Canadian dollars. Why? Members opposite should know. Our self-styled experts who love to criticize our policies should know. Oil, that is all, oil, and it is easy to understand why.

Because of the price of oil, a delivery truck in Europe, what we call here a two-ton or a three-ton truck, costs \$40,000 to \$50,000 in gas a year, and that is before the driver's salary, the truck itself and maintenance costs are paid. No wonder a bottle of soda water costs \$3. Most of the people in Europe, where I have just come from, are very simply trapped. The energy crisis has led them to dead end. They work from 6.30 in the morning till 6.30 at night, and for what? To eat and pay their rent. They must constantly do without things that for us are quite ordinary and normal. All this is related to oil prices. When I landed in Dorval and was able to have a breakfast with eggs, bacon, toast and coffee for \$1.75, in other words, to eat my fill, I realized that I had just saved \$10.25 which I could now use to purchase other consumer goods, and thus contribute to make other Canadians work and share this \$10.25 with them instead of with the multinationals.

I heard earlier the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Clark) complain that the oil companies who do research in Canada are now going to the United States and that these poor companies are always losing money in this country. On the other hand, I listened to the Leader of the New Democratic Party who said that the oil companies had made a lot of money, and I have to wonder if they are really serious. Strangely enough, I am not at all concerned about an area where there is such a great demand as the oil industry. I am certain that there will always be companies to develop these

resources to meet the demand. If restaurant owners were in demand in my region, there would be many of them even if they were forced to lower their prices. This is what is happening in the oil industry, and I wonder why members opposite want us to get down on our knees before the multinationals since they are not even complaining. Who has been complaining? The members opposite. The oil companies are not even complaining. Of course, they must make some protest, but only for form's sake. Obviously, instead of making \$50 million, they would rather make more. I am not at all worried about the welfare of the poor oil companies in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the role of a responsible government is to see to it that prices remain low so that a greater number of Canadians can purchase as many goods as possible. If our prices remain low, we are more competitive on international markets, and if we sell more, we have to produce more and put more Canadians to work. It is crystal clear, Mr. Speaker. No one needs a university degree to understand that. The energy policy of our government, which is a responsible government, is based on principles of logic and common sense.

● (1650)

[English]

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I look at the time with some dismay. As we are addressing Bill C-48, I cannot help but remark that had we not been interrupted by the nonsensical motion of the New Democratic Party and its leader, possibly I would have been able to finish my speech. But now it will be broken into two parts.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Shields: All members of the House know exactly how it feels when one starts out one's comments, must stop in the middle and then carry on later.

This bill is very important because of the energy crisis which Canada faces today. Yet the New Democratic Party would rather headline hunt, clown, and present a motion to adjourn the House when we have been out of the House for a full three weeks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shields: They would rather adjourn the House to go back and sit in their offices. I find it absolutely ridiculous and nonsensical but, believe me, some members of the press will pick this up. We should turn on our television sets tonight and watch the news. There will be a great motion by the clowning Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) which will go out across the waves. I find that shameful also. Some members of the news media, the champions of truth and the reporters of history in the making, will take truck with what happened today, disturbing and interrupting the House for headline hunting. I am sorry to say that some of them will.

Today we are prepared to debate energy, the lifeblood of the country. If we do not have it, we freeze in the dark. If we do not have oil self-sufficiency by 1990, we will find ourselves