

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

This may be sort of political heresy because the Mackenzie King argument which has always been made in this country—I say this with the greatest respect to the late Mackenzie King—is that the ideal political situation is a one-party situation. I am sure that when Mr. King spoke about one party he had in mind his own party as the chosen instrument. The ideal situation was for one party to in fact have some kind of strong presence in every single province, that there should be no visible division or confrontation in politics and that whatever differences existed, they should be ironed out within the peaceful, quiet confines of the cabinet room. In other words, you do this by negotiating while holding hands, letting no one see that the interests of Manitoba are not quite the same as the interests of Nova Scotia. The idea was that we must never let this happen.

Let me refer to the result of that kind of policy and then I will come back to the present situation. The result was that nothing was done. During this process of holding hands and bargaining with each other, no one was willing to do anything lest somebody's feelings were hurt in the process. The result was that all the problems were buried for us to deal with at a later date. Nothing was solved, the problems were simply postponed; and by postponing them they became exacerbated until we had to deal with them openly and realistically.

I wonder what might have happened if the situation had prevailed in which the Liberal Party had half the seats in Alberta or, if you want to really stretch the imagination, we had two or three seats in Alberta.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Saltzman: What would have been the consequences of that situation? The consequences might have been a very moot approach to the whole question of energy and there would have been no confrontation. The winners in this kind of situation would have been the multinational oil companies, because it would be very easy to lay the blame as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) tried to do in respect of the *force majeure* clauses. He tried to say that if this diversion took place, it was not because the Canadian government wanted it that way but, rather, because the multinational corporations wanted it that way.

He tried to suggest that the *force majeure* argument was total nonsense and that in fact the multinational corporations have so much at stake and depend so much on the good will of the Canadian people and the Canadian government that they would not dare to oppose the will of the Canadian people if the government insisted. That is the kind of scenario we might have seen. The situation might have been a lot more visible in this country and some of the angry words said in this House might never have been expressed. Had that been the case, the nation would be much worse off. This is a much better way, that is, to see things as they are and try to deal with them in realistic terms.

I have no doubt that before long, in spite of some of the words that have been said, there will probably be a cartoon in one of our national newspaper showing the blue-eyed leader of my party with his arms around the blue

[Mr. Saltzman.]

eyed leader of the party in Alberta. The page will have a lot of blue and a lot of lovely words.

We will resolve this difficulty. We are not going to get into a crisis that will be so severe that confederation will fail. Some of the words being said now are frank and open, and they are necessary. They have needed saying for a long time, and we are saying them. We will resolve the problem, because the feelings of the people in my party toward the people of Alberta are certainly very friendly. We have a gentleman by the name of Grant Notley who makes sure they continue to be friendly. I am sure the people of Alberta do not really dislike us nearly as much as we have been told.

Mr. Bawden: You are one of the nicer ones, anyway.

Mr. Saltzman: You see, that is the beginning of the détente when a big oil-driller says: "Well, that socialist is not all bad."

Mr. Bawden: I didn't say that.

Mr. Saltzman: I will give you another few weeks, and perhaps we will be fortunate enough to hear that as well.

Mr. Bawden: I said you may not be as bad as the rest of them.

Mr. Saltzman: I am suggesting that because there has been a minority parliament, because of the crisis in the Middle East, because of the fact that representation around the country has been lopsided and political situations in each party are somewhat different than they might otherwise have been, we have been able to grapple with the problem of energy in this country.

Today we have heard some lethal things from members of the Conservative Party, some of which seem to have echoed from the Liberal Party, about statements supposed to have been made by the Premier of the great province of Saskatchewan. An attempt is being made to sort of equate the words of the Premier of Saskatchewan with those of the Premier of Alberta. This cannot be done because the words are not the same. There are very distinct differences between the positions of those two provinces, which I think have to be stated at this time. I think anyone who has looked at the two statements or who has followed the debate will see that there is in fact a very considerable difference.

It is obvious that the first responsibility of the premier of any province, whether it be socialist or conservative, is to the people of his province. He must try to do the best he can for them. That is not an issue and no one is questioning or challenging that role. The question is, how does the premier envisage his role in the province in connection with confederation? Does he, as we have unfortunately seen in Alberta, have a willingness on behalf of the province to treat other Canadians as though they were another group of foreigners? The question is, does the premier say that because he can get \$7 a barrel in Chicago, the rest of the people in Canada must pay \$7? Does he suggest that he will do the rest of the country a big favour by making sure they get first choice; or does he say, as the Premier of Saskatchewan has said, we are going to try to get the maximum amount for the oil we export out of this coun-