

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) wishes to ask a question, but because the time of the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) has expired it can only be done with unanimous consent. Does the House agree that the hon. member may answer the question?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): I would remind hon. members that this would automatically give extended time to the hon. member.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member a question. He said that the Conservative caucus was supporting the Premier of Alberta. I should like to know, as a fellow Manitoban, how he reconciles the statement of the Premier of Manitoba and the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Len Evans, who have said that there is no energy shortage in Manitoba and that Manitoba should use all the energy it can.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, there is no contradiction between what the Premier of Manitoba or the Minister of Industry and Commerce said and what I said. I said there is no crisis—

An hon. Member: You said there was. You would vote for this bill.

Mr. Orlikow: I said there was no shortage of oil west of the Ottawa River, and that is precisely what the Premier of Manitoba and the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Manitoba have said. There is, or there may be, or there will be a shortage in the provinces east of the Ottawa River. It seems very strange to me, as a member of parliament from Winnipeg and as a member of a party that does not have a single member east of the Ottawa River and is concerned about the possible shortage in those provinces, that members of parliament from the official opposition who have a majority of the members from Newfoundland, all but one of the members from Nova Scotia—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Orlikow: —and half the members from—

An hon. Member: There will be some from Winnipeg the next time, too.

Mr. Orlikow: —and even two members from Quebec, do not seem to think there is a crisis. They do not seem to think there is a possible shortage. They do not seem to be very concerned at all about whether or not the citizens of that part of Canada are going to suffer this winter. Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I am concerned about the welfare and the needs of the people of Canada from whatever area they come.

An hon. Member: Even Alberta.

Mr. Orlikow: Even Alberta, Mr. Speaker. And if there is a possibility of shortages in those provinces, if there is an possibility that rationing is required, if there is a possibility that allocation of supplies will be necessary, I am more than willing to give the government the authority to do

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the job which is necessary. I do not think it would be in the interests of the people of those provinces to leave the allocation of oil to Imperial Oil, to Shell, to Gulf or even to the former resident of New Brunswick, K. C. Irving. If some agency must take the responsibility for allocation of short oil supplies, I would rather trust the government of Canada, even an incompetent government like this, than the multinational corporations.

Mr. Charles E. Haliburton (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, as one of my hon. friend says, an answer like that deserves a speech. I am sure it is apparent to all hon. members this evening that there is a crisis in Canada. The crisis is certainly not in gas; the crisis is one of confidence in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Haliburton: The crisis is mainly concentrated in the area to my left. This is quite apparent from the speech we have just heard. The hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) supported this government last night. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, he rises to condemn the very policies of this government which were the subject of a vote of confidence yesterday. Listening to the speech just made, one would think that the debate tonight was not about any crisis in relation to energy in this country or any crisis in relation to oil or petroleum supplies; one would think we are dealing with a resolution to put the oil companies of Canada in their place. That is not the question before the House, Mr. Speaker. The question before the House is whether this House can endorse what the government would have us believe is the initial opening volley of some kind of oil policy for Canada, of some kind of energy policy for Canada that would have some meaning, some continuity which would assure the people of this country of reasonably priced energy during years to come.

The performance of the government to date, and I speak of the party from 1963 to the present, is such that one cannot have any confidence whatever in the ability of that party on the opposite side of the House to make the policy that would benefit Canada. Why should we support such far reaching powers as are contained in this legislation? The powers contained in the legislation are as great as any that were contained in wartime measures, powers that will give the government absolute control, absolute discretion to choose between companies, to favour regions and otherwise to interfere with the normal operation of the oil market. What is the basis for their request? Is there an anticipated shortfall this season of 75,000 barrels? There was one day, but another day it was an anticipated shortfall of 200,000 barrels.

One day, Mr. Speaker, we had the situation where there was no blacklist as far as Saudi Arabia and Canada were concerned. According to my information derived from an oil company, officials of the company were advised by officials of Saudi Arabia that although Canada perhaps was not on any Arab blacklist, there would not be any oil shipments to Canada from that country. So although it may be suggested that we are not on any blacklist, we would be fooling ourselves if we took that suggestion seriously, as our consumers need relief.