

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

January 23 and 24, and I am waiting for their response as to those dates and as to the agenda.

**An hon. Member:** A supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A number of additional supplementaries have been asked and in allowing the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham to ask his question and supplementary we have gone five minutes past the end of the question period. Perhaps we might pursue this matter tomorrow when I will recognize hon. members. Orders of the day.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### ENERGY SUPPLIES EMERGENCY ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR ALLOCATION BOARD,  
MANDATORY ALLOCATION OF SUPPLIES AND RATIONING  
OF CONTROLLED PRODUCTS

The House resumed, from Friday, December 7, consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-236, to provide a means to conserve the supplies of petroleum products within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or market disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada and to amend the National Energy Board Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of the debate on Friday afternoon of Bill C-236, I had spent some time indicating the great difficulty that had been created by this government's so-called oil policy because of the increasing division in this country, not only over assurance of supply of petroleum products but also over the cost of those petroleum products to the Canadian people. When the debate concluded on Friday afternoon I expected, as I think did many hon. members, that many of the questions that had not been answered by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald), who unfortunately was not with us at that time, or by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), arising from the statement he made on Thursday, would make themselves clear over the weekend or possibly during the debate that took place yesterday. As all hon. members of the House and all Canadians now realize, not only has the situation not been clarified, but in some way the confusion and anxiety has increased.

Even a minister so directly responsible for the economic and social development of eastern Canada, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson), was unable to say anything more except this, and I quote from his speech as reported at page 8590 of *Hansard*, the second column:

Prices are being kept down where possible, and those in greatest need are being helped. If other steps are found to be necessary, they will be taken.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

That, as I read it, is the sum and substance of this minister's response to the very great economic and social hardships being faced by the people of eastern Canada. As I said on Friday, since September of this year the cost of home heating fuels for those living in the Atlantic provinces had increased by early December by some 20 per cent, and the increase shows no signs of abating. With respect to the present price differential that exists between eastern and western Canada, on an average basis it is something like 40 per cent. Consumers of home heating fuels in Quebec and Atlantic Canada are paying 40 per cent more for those fuels than their fellow citizens who are able to make use of domestic petroleum products. I want it to be abundantly clear that in the days and weeks to come this government will have a great deal to answer for in the perpetuation of this inequity. It is one of the most disturbing ironies that, in introducing his remarks on Thursday, the Prime Minister should refer to this kind of oil policy as a one Canada oil policy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Let me just give the House an example of the situation as it existed a few days ago compared with the situation existing in eastern Canada in September of this year. Beginning in St. John's, Newfoundland, which for some time now has had unusually high heating oil costs, the cost of a gallon of home heating fuel in September of this year was 31 cents; by December it had risen 3.7 cents to 34.7 cents a gallon. In Halifax, the price in September was 27.3 cents; by December the price had risen to 33.2 cents, an increase of 5.9 cents a gallon. The situation in Saint John and Fredericton I explained on Friday, so I will not repeat it. In Charlottetown, the price in September was 29.4 cents; by December it had risen to 35.3 cents. In Quebec City—I hope some of my colleagues opposite are listening closely—the price in September was 28 cents even; by December it had risen to 33.9 cents, an increase of 5.9 cents. In Montreal, the price was 27.5 cents in September; it has increased to 33.4 cents in December, an increase of almost 6 cents a gallon.

By comparison, the price of home heating fuels in Toronto, almost at the end of the distribution line for domestic oil, was 26.3 cents in September; by December it had risen exactly one cent, to 27.3 cents. The present cost of home heating fuel in Winnipeg, as reported I think by the Mohawk Oil Company, stands at 24.7 cents a gallon. If that does not represent one of the great inequities of recent time in a two Canada oil policy that has been proclaimed by the government, then I do not know what does. That this government, which has such a large number of members representing an area that is going to suffer increasingly this winter from high fuel costs, should be supported in its policy by my hon. friends to my left is just inconceivable. I wonder how much longer the country can accept the rationalization of this government that this policy makes good sense for the people of this country.

● (1500)

We have in effect two oil policies in which the price of domestic oil is now being ostensibly frozen for the duration of this winter, but the government says basically it is helpless to do anything about the cost of home heating fuels in eastern Canada. I know the Prime Minister said