

enterprise corporations which have sold most of its products in the past, it will only deal with a national entity.

That is how I understand the situation. I do not think there is any question in the mind of anyone that if this is the term and condition that Venezuela or any other country wants, we should set up some form of national energy commission to go there and buy the oil.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I do not care what the name of it is, as long as they are satisfied; and I gather from the Venezuelans that they do not care what it is called. They will sell to that entity what oil they have and it can then be made available to the distributive agencies in this country. The main thing I want to say to the minister is this: Do it now. Don't wait for next spring when the cries are being sent up from deficit areas remote from the main supply areas.

That is a simple request. I know that if the minister takes action along these lines, the NDP will support him. I know that every party in this House will support him on the ground that he is making sure we are provided with the oil necessary to meet our needs. Incidentally, on that point, hardly a day passes without news, through the grapevine which is used by those who sell oil around the world, of someone who has spot oil for sale. If the existing corporations prefer to use their own supply sources and are not interested in this spot oil, then maybe this new energy entity would be interested. But do not let these questions divide us. If the minister is having trouble with his colleagues, he has one responsibility to himself and to the people of this country—to resign and tell us why.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I would think that from what has been said in the House tonight the Governor General would know there are enough people in this chamber to form a government to do the very thing I am talking about. Let it be clearly understood that when the people of this country are in danger of physical discomfort this winter—as they are in danger—we pull together.

The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands raised the question of how much we would be short, and whether we would be short. I do not think he would mind if I said to him that any person who assumes there will be no shortage does not know what he is talking about. There is bound to be a shortage. If 25 per cent of our oil comes from the Middle East, and if we can believe the Arab nations when they say they will cut back supplies by 25 per cent, we face the prospect of losing 50,000 barrels a day as a minimum—more if supplies are reduced by 30 per cent the next month.

I think we should go out and make sure the oil is available. The nations of the OECD made an agreement early last spring to share what oil was available. But we all noticed in February and March that four of the European countries concerned made a deal with Libya. We noticed, too, that the United States went to Venezuela five months ago. That is when we should have been there looking after the people of Canada. I am simply pointing

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out that once the demand is ascertained, we can meet it if necessary; buy it from offshore sources if possible, and I believe there is a 90 per cent chance that we can. If we cannot, we can still meet it from western Canadian sources, provided we quit this abrasive, confrontation type of politics we have been witnessing.

Believe me, those of us who come from producing areas are not poor Canadians. If a price sacrifice is required from us, tell us what the terms are and we will meet the challenge. But treat us as human beings you can talk to and trust.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I do not want to press that point, because I hope the words which have been written and spoken in the last four or five days by many people will be forgotten as soon as possible and that as Canadians we can sit down together and get this show on the road again. But I do suggest to the minister that when he meets with his colleagues on November 23 he should tell them it must be assumed there will be a shortage in spite of all our efforts—and I do not say there will necessarily be a shortage if certain things are done. But he should be in a position to tell them that an inventory has been taken of all oil-carrying trucks in eastern Canada and in British Columbia, and of all the rail tank cars in Canada, and that plans have been worked out to spot them in the event of shortages this winter. Suppose a seven-day storm hits Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland or any part of Quebec or Ontario. The people affected should know there is something ready to move in from another part of Canada to ensure they do not go cold in their homes.

I should like to say a few words about storage. I happen to know that in many parts of eastern Canada storage tanks which should be full are empty. I should like to see the government speaking to the provincial ministers who have the power to deal with this situation, ascertain where the empty storage exists and see that it is filled before the freeze hits us at Christmas time. I should like to see the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) stand up here tomorrow and promise an accelerated write-off, the same as was given to big business, to anyone who will undertake to put up increased storage facilities. After all, the hon. gentleman was quick enough to impose the export tax which directly affected Alberta revenues. If he did this, the extra storage would be put up and it would serve us well not only this winter but next winter too.

Now I should like to say a word about conservation. I have a file here, as thick as anyone would wish to read, setting out all the ways in which energy can be saved. As an example, despite all the innovation made available by the National Research Council, the insulation of our homes is extremely inefficient. We could save 20 per cent on the fuel bill of every home in this country. Likewise, large quantities of gasoline could be saved if we were to change our driving habits. Speeds over 50 miles an hour use up 20 per cent extra fuel. Let us ask the provinces to enforce a 50 miles an hour speed limit on our icy roads this winter. We could take similar steps. For example, last week the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr.