

*Supply*

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, in his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) indicated a real concern about resolving the problems of unemployment in western Canada and doing whatever is possible to encourage economic development and expansion. He referred specifically to the Liberal proposal, which had existed for probably their entire mandate of 20 years, to move western Canadian low sulphur coal to central Canada to be used both by Ontario Hydro and the steel companies. Has the Government decided whether it will take some initiative in this regard and discuss it with the Ontario Government, by implication Ontario Hydro, and specifically with the steel companies throughout Ontario?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. Yes, we have met with officials of Ontario Hydro. I was to meet with senior officials last week but as a result of a storm, they were unable to attend. The meeting has been rescheduled for December 17.

Premier Peterson has agreed to meet and we are looking for an appropriate date. I have not discussed the matter with the steel industry. We sense that there is at least a willingness on the part of Ontario Hydro to explore the matter, which we are certainly doing.

I have personally taken an interest in this and we hope to cover all of its aspects, not only from a surface transportation point of view. I see the Member's colleague, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus). He would also be very interested because this would clearly be a way to encourage and increase traffic on the Great Lakes water system. That is another spin-off aspect that would be beneficial to the whole country.

There is no question that there are some obstacles, but it is certainly the kind of project that I think deserves the support and co-operation of all. I appreciate the Hon. Member's support in that regard.

**Mr. Brisco:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) will comment on the context of a portion of the motion which calls upon the Government to institute an immediate meeting of western provincial Governments, farmers, industries and labour. As recently as the end of last month there was a First Ministers conference which certainly provided the opportunity for western Ministers to express their concerns. We should not forget that the Prime Minister has annualized the First Ministers conferences so that there is little value in proposing something that has already taken place, except to point out that the Liberals have failed to recognize it.

Furthermore, the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that for the first time in history a Prime Minister of Canada appeared before and addressed the three major agricultural groups of Canada. He gave a very positive message that was positively received by the agricultural community, with the only negative response coming from the CBC.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister comment on the introduction to a book entitled *The Sorcerer's Apprentices* written by Peter Foster. Let me quote the following passage from the introduction:

When the Liberals defeated the short-lived Government of Joe Clark in February, 1980, they promised lower petroleum prices than the Conservatives, Canadianization of the oil industry, and energy security through self-sufficiency in oil. Two and a half years later, they had delivered the highest petroleum price increases in Canadian history, a financially crippled Canadian sector of the oil business, and a more uncertain supply future than at any time since the first OPEC crisis of 1973-74.

He went on to say that in the shape of energy megaprojects they held to ransom and injured the Canadian-U.S. relations more than any other policy in living memory. He went on:

Why did the public provide such overwhelming support for such a disastrous policy?—because they did not understand—and were misled—about its true nature; second, because they supported the principle, but had no idea of the implications of the Canadianization of the oil business as proposed by the NEP—

Would the Deputy Prime Minister care to comment?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member raising those questions. The first one concerned the substance of the motion and the recommendation that a meeting should be convened. I believe that all Hon. Members and all Canadians are aware that the style and substance of the Government has been to consult and work together with provincial Governments and industry. I do not believe that there are any other areas that illustrate this more than in the two areas of agriculture and energy that we are discussing here.

When the Prime Minister announced that the billion-dollar assistance package would be worked out with the provinces and the producers of Canada, he meant it. This was carried out. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) and the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) met on numerous occasions with their counterparts from provincial Governments and met on numerous occasions with the farmers. That is why we see the program that was announced yesterday so widely accepted by the producers. I care what the producers say about it, not the CBC. It is widely accepted by the producers because they have played a role in developing the package. I believe that is very important.

Members opposite, particularly the Liberals, have criticized the Government for consulting too much. We recognize that this process may take somewhat longer, but at least the right solutions are found. When we addressed the problems of energy in Alberta we did not do it unilaterally. We did not unilaterally impose a national energy program, we worked out the Western Accord with the Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and the industry.

**Mr. Orlikow:** What is happening now?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The Hon. Member is asking me what is happening now. If he had been in the House he would know because I gave a complete exposé of what is happening.