

● (2110)

You should drum him out. Get him at that Christmas party tomorrow night and drum him out before he does any more damage.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:**

The government's concern with ownership and taxation in the energy industry (rather than with the real issue of energy supply) is causing major projects to be stalled . . . Outlays by oil and gas companies were projected to about one-third of total business investment in 1981.

That's knocked on the head.

One estimate by Data Resources of Canada is that business investment will show no growth at all in 1981; before the budget, the firm was forecasting a 1.4 per cent advance.

In the history of Canada there has never been such an abortion of a budget, never a budget that has done so much damage to the economy. You don't have to take my word. I am just passing on the opinions of other respected economists.

Obviously, an increase in energy prices had to come at some point (though the disappointment is that, under the Liberals, it carries with it no promise that energy supplies will be increased).

Am I getting near the end of my time? In that case, I cannot go on with the other quotations. The scenario is a grim one. I recommend that all hon. members read it in the December 1980 issue of *Executive*. I say to members opposite, do to the Christmas party tomorrow night. Put MacEachen out, fire Lalonde and perhaps in this country we will then have a chance to get a rational and sensible solution to these problems.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** In conclusion, in introducing this bill, the minister said he was acting on principles of security, opportunity and fairness. There is no security in this bill for Canada, none at all. With this bill, there is no opportunity for anybody. There is no fairness. Gentlemen, for heaven's sake, go to your caucus and change this policy before it is too late.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have this opportunity to say a few words on Bill C-48, the Canadian Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act.

It was nice to see the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) in full flight tonight, with his very conciliatory and non-partisan approach and the bombastic rhetoric in which he excels. I certainly hope whoever is negotiating on behalf of the federal government, whether it be the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) or the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), with the Premier of Alberta or the energy minister of that province will be much more conciliatory than that in their presentation of the federal side. Otherwise, I am not sure we would ever reach an energy agreement.

If those discussions go forward in the next few months, I hope there will be agreement. I agree with most members of this House that an oil and gas pricing agreement is essential. Those of us who work on the Standing Committee on National

### *Canada Oil and Gas Act*

Resources and Public Works are very aware of the urgency of getting on with the heavy oil and tar sands plants. We know that between \$8 billion and \$10 billion is involved in each of those projects along with seven or eight years lead time. From our discussions and presentations by Alsands and Esso Resources group last fall, we have learned this.

Many members on both sides of the House want to see those discussions get under way as soon as possible. They are not only in the interests of Alberta, but of all parts of this country. I am confident, with the conciliation and compromise, that we have seen over the past years in this country, it will be possible to reach an agreement.

In the 12 years I have been a member of this place, I have found that the higher up the level of government in terms of municipal, provincial or federal, the blame always ascends. Whether it is a small municipality not able to get a grant for a sewage treatment plant, or whether it is a problem with the provinces, the tendency is always to blame the higher level of government.

The federal government often gets lambasted for problems that may not be of its own making. It has to swallow its pride and get on with the job because it has a national responsibility. It cannot make the policy for only one part of the country. I believe the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources wanted to reach an agreement last May, June and July when they met with representatives and the Premier of Alberta. There were a number of long negotiations and discussions. It may be argued that they were both coming at it from a different approach. Alberta certainly sees its resources as its own and believes it should have complete control right to the gas tank. The federal government is trying to balance the needs of the producing provinces, especially Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, against the needs of the consumers.

Every dollar added to the price of a barrel of oil represents a one half of one per cent increase in the consumer price index. We are facing the worst inflation since 1975, when wage and price controls were put on, with the 10 per cent rate this past summer.

Speaking on this bill a few days ago, the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) said we should be rapidly moving to 85 per cent of the world price. I do not know what he means by rapidly. When talking about a move to the world price, we are talking about at least a \$20 increase which would represent an additional 10 per cent inflation over and above the 10 per cent we now have.

The federal government is mindful of that need to try to control inflation and think about the consumer as well as the producing areas. At the same time, we have high unemployment in this country. We are told by economists that every dollar added to the price of a barrel of oil represents a loss of 20,000 jobs. The oil producing areas will argue that if the price does not go up and the projects do not get rolling, we will lose jobs there. When we consider a dramatic \$20 per barrel increase we are looking at between 300,000 and 400,000 jobs being lost because an oil price increase causes a drag on the