

authority that rightfully belongs to the provinces, placing it within the federal Cabinet.

● (2030)

An awesome point about the legislation is that it will allow, in its own way, almost complete power of economic dictation over most of our industrial activity. As a Canadian and a member of parliament representing the energy-rich province of Alberta, I just do not believe that the federal Cabinet ministers should be allowed to vest themselves with the authority rightfully belonging to the provinces. I can see why the Prime Minister would like to take over provincial jurisdiction, and his speech made in Vancouver a week or so ago is perfect evidence.

In that speech he scathingly attacked Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed. The Prime Minister, of all people, called Mr. Lougheed "petulant". He then followed up that comment with what has been described as the most vicious and pernicious attack ever launched by a Prime Minister of Canada against a premier of a province. This came, Mr. Speaker, from a man who was elected in 1968 with a promise to unite Canada. How times have changed; how the masks have come off and how the truth is coming out. At least the people of Canada know the truth now, and that is why the Prime Minister's smashing majority of 1968 was cut to a scant two-seat lead over the Progressive Conservatives in 1972.

Mr. Paproski: Wait until next time.

Mr. Hurlburt: Did the Prime Minister learn any lessons? A touch of humility, a bit of oil on troubled waters and then utter capitulation to his former allies, the New Democrats, in order to continue governing Canada with the aid of this party which obtained less than 18 per cent of the votes in 1972. This government party is interested in power at all costs; power and more power, and if power cannot be obtained within a parliamentary framework, then bills such as C-236 are brought forth to ensure that power in any case. I am astonished that members of parliament in any of the four parties represented in this historic House of Commons would easily support this legislation and thus force the provinces to surrender their authority. The conditions under which this authority can be invoked by the cabinet, coupled with the past performance of those who are demanding these vast powers, should give us all cause for concern. It is obvious that the government wants power far beyond its real needs. If it wants to allocate oil supplies at the wholesale level, and perhaps to ration supplies at the retail level—this is something we hope will never come to pass—then it already has legislation on the books giving it power to do these things.

Provincial rights and provincial jurisdiction are in fact a counterbalance; a democratic safeguard to federal authority. Both have their place in the Canadian constitution and both have served us well for more than 100 years. Let us not destroy those balances and safeguards now. Let us now look at the current energy crisis which the federal government suggests we face in Canada.

Let me say that in eastern Canada, in the Maritimes and in Quebec there is an energy shortage. It is simply a short-term shortage due in some small way to the international situation, but mainly due to the blindness and

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shortsightedness of the federal Liberal government which has repeatedly refused to build a pipeline extension from Sarnia to Montreal. Now that it realizes its mistakes it tries to cover up; it tries, through vicious attacks by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to somehow blame the province of Alberta for the shortages. This approach will not work, as you can fool some of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.

Time after time Alberta government officials have gone all out in attempts to ease the energy shortage in eastern Canada. The Alberta premier, Mr. Lougheed, and his ministers, have tried and tried again to co-operate with Ottawa, but the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has refused to accept that co-operation. Instead, perhaps because Albertans refused to elect even one Liberal member to the 75-seat Provincial legislature, the Prime Minister and the minister of energy, who believe all Progressive Conservatives are "rednecks", have set out to punish Alberta, as another of my colleagues, the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie), suggested in this Chamber just a week or so ago.

One of the greatest politicians of our times, that prime minister of the mother of parliaments in Westminster, Sir Winston Churchill, gallantly set out against all odds to unite his people, get them pulling together and eventually stood up against an insidious enemy. Canada's problems compared to those faced by England in 1939 are nothing, yet we have been unable to find the will to tackle them. Our Prime Minister came into the political arena promising, like Mr. Churchill, to unite our nation and lead it to a brave, new frontier. We are now as disunited as ever, and I suggest this is an artificial disunity caused and promoted simply for partisan political gain. If the Prime Minister can turn the rest of Canada against the so-called "villain" Alberta, perhaps he can, by a hate campaign, win his party more seats in eastern Canada. What a way to run a country, and what a way to seek to govern!

We have no long-term energy crisis in this country. What we have is a crisis in transportation of energy from one part of the country to the other, brought on by the Liberal government's complete refusal to build a pipeline to Montreal. What we have is a crisis in government caused by a Prime Minister spirited suddenly into power in 1968 without knowledge of, or liking for, our system of parliamentary government. All is not lost. My fellow colleagues from Alberta have more than adequately explained the situation regarding the vast abundance of oil and gas in Canada, particularly in the Athabasca tar sands. It is true that our conventional resources are reaching their peak and within a decade will be running down at a dangerous rate, but the tar sands are just beginning to open up as are resources in the Canadian Arctic and, hopefully, in the offshore Atlantic and Pacific areas.

Now that the federal government has suddenly taken an interest in the Athabasca tar sands, after so many years, I should like to point out that it was and is private enterprise, not a socialist entity, that pioneered the development of the tar sands extraction process, and pioneered that development at tremendous cost and risk. We have now all heard of the over \$1 billion Syncrude Canada