

an important step in the process. But he wanted to ensure that there would be an opportunity for parliament to consider, not simply that report, but also have access to all available consultants' reports which had been prepared, and to have a full debate after the NEB had reported on reserves and on the pipeline applications which are now before it. That is exactly what our position is today.

When we are considering the Berger report—a first class document and anyone who reads it will be impressed—we must realize that changes are in store, not just for Indian and native people, but for all Canadians, if we cannot overcome the energy crisis, if we cannot ensure that we can heat and light our homes and factories in the future as we have in the past. Unless we can overcome these problems, life might well change for all Canadians. Canadians are not taking sufficient alarm at what faces them with respect to energy in the future. One reason why they are not thinking sufficiently about it is that the government has no policy in the field of energy. It is a government which, when you ask a question, responds with a timid titter. When you ask this government a question about its energy policy, you get no information. A smile is no substitute for the truth or for an informative answer when questions are asked. There are too many happy titters running through this House.

The government has no energy policy. It has strategies, it has techniques, it has documents, it files reports, but it has no policy. What has it done which is in any way effective in the field of energy conservation? Canada's energy needs on the supply side are not going to be met without a fantastic effort toward conservation in Canada.

In the United States of America their goal is to have no more than a 2 per cent increase in the use of energy per year. Our timid Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) has a goal of 3½ per cent per year. A goal of less than 3.5 per cent was announced in May, 1976. I am tired of this government announcing goals. I want to hear it announce a policy and to tell us how it is going to fulfil that policy.

I have here a document put out by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources comparing President Carter's energy conservation proposals with the minister's own mouse-like steps. On the one side we have the United States latest energy growth in demand of 2 per cent, and that is quite explicit. On the other side the minister says he has a goal of less than 3.5 per cent, an announcement made in May, 1976. This is typical Canadian bureaucratic obfuscation. He says a further analysis suggests that a 2 per cent growth rate may be feasible. Did you ever hear anything so foolish?

Because the United States has set a target of 2 per cent, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources now says 2 per cent may be feasible here. What steps is the minister going to take to achieve that target? Is he going to do it by having energy conservation programs in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and discriminating against the other eight provinces of Canada? He is slithering around now because he knows he is in trouble in oil and gas price changes by saying he may extend it to the other eight provinces of Canada. If there is an

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election this fall, he will have it done before the fall. If it is not this year, then he will have it done before next year. It is not going to help him because the people of Canada are going to remember his great energy conservation policy applied only in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. That is not what we want.

● (1420)

We want a true energy conservation policy with some muscle behind it. We want the minister to get together with the ten provinces of Canada. If the provinces are not doing their share—and most of them are not—we want the minister to persuade them that together they have got to start an emergency program of conservation and more efficient use of energy. The answer is not on the supply side only. We are never going to be self-sufficient in supply. It is going to be too expensive.

The hon. minister opposite has no hydro policy either. His hydro policy is lacking. There are hydro sources throughout northern Canada that can be developed. There are certainly many thousands of megawatts. The minister is doing nothing about that. He is letting them lie fallow. There is no assistance program for those sources, many of which lie in less wealthy provinces which cannot develop them with their own financial resources. The minister is doing nothing there. He has no hydro policy. It is time he got his water aroused and got a hydro policy.

What is the minister doing on the tar sands? The tar sands are lying idle. There was one project—Syncrude. What has happened since? What is going to happen in the tar sands? What is the minister doing for exploration? He is doing nothing.

The government of Alberta did something. Last year exploration and development in Alberta burgeoned up. I am not saying it "Bergered up"; I am saying it burgeoned up. What is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources doing to see that we get more of the tar sands developed? He is doing less than nothing. The gentleman should resign, unless he can start making some progress in these areas. What is he doing for heavy oil? He is doing less than nothing. Will the Minister without Portfolio help direct his mind in these directions? He is trying to direct his mind into an anti-Berger direction, but will he use his influence? Will he try to get the government to adopt some kind of policy? We know we are going to see some fantastic changes in Liberal policy now that the Minister without Portfolio is there. The lion has returned.

I am not one of those who scoff at the oil and gas companies and the chances and risks they are taking. I think something should be said about them occasionally—what they are trying to do and what they are risking. I am referring to companies such as Dome Petroleum. I know we have a very risky, tricky situation in the Beaufort Sea. Canada is lucky to have entrepreneurs and companies which are willing to risk millions of dollars on long shots to develop the technology and try to find and develop the resources with it. Although I think it is time a good word was said about them and the rest of the oil and gas