

limited global oil resources. Other major international events could well drive the Soviet bloc onto the world market. The unrest in Poland poses a tremendous dilemma to the Soviet Union, which has already informed its satellites that they cannot count on petroleum supplies from the U.S.S.R. to meet their increasing demands. Despite recent reports of huge oil reserves in the U.S.S.R., most analysts feel that even if those reports are correct—and they have their doubts on that score—they believe Soviet technology is such that no significant production could take place from those reserves in less than ten years.

But the need for the Soviet Union to help provide economic stability in the Soviet bloc countries exists right now. It cannot be put off for ten years. Even though the U.S.S.R. has served notice of cut-offs of oil to the satellite countries, given the unrest in Poland and given the economic problems in that and other countries, does Russia dare to proceed with its cutoffs? If it finds that it cannot, will the U.S.S.R. then seek to purchase this oil on an already tight open market, or will it act in such a manner as to destabilize further the Middle East? Some of these may be considered imponderables, but they are matters which must be considered when we are devising our own national energy program. The reality of the global oil scene is that there is conflict, there is increasing instability in the Middle East, there is a growing need for oil in Third World countries and there is uncertainty about the source of supply for Soviet satellite countries. All these things have a bearing on supplies of oil which are available through world oil markets.

All of this has a bearing on what Canada should be doing to make itself oil self-sufficient at the first and quickest opportunity. This should be done just as quickly as possible. However, the national oil and energy policy which this government has put forward in no way aspires to meet the conditions I have described. In so way does it take them into account.

That brings us to this very bill, which is part of the government's national energy policy, a policy which is prolonging the day when this country will achieve oil self-sufficiency.

I wish I could be more charitable toward the government's energy policy and its actions, but that simply is not possible for any Canadian who is concerned about the future security of this country. The government has arbitrarily said about its energy policy, "We will do it our way", even though that way is wrong. The government does not seek consensus; it does not consider; it does not consult; it resorts to unilateral action, which is the only thing it seems to know how to do. In doing so this government damages our ability to become oil self-sufficient.

If the government had set out deliberately to decrease our production and to make us more vulnerable to Middle East instabilities and international oil pressures, it could not have been more successful.

In the past few weeks, as a result of the national energy policy the whole of the tar sands development has been stalled indefinitely. The provinces have suffered declines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars from the drop in lease sales.

Canada Oil and Gas Act

Canadian companies are complaining bitterly about this program, which the minister tries to argue is meant to aid their growth. If I were to take someone who would be considered unbiased from a Conservative point of view, I could quote Premier Blakeney of Saskatchewan, who said when he spoke last month that the first companies to go under as a result of this National Energy Program will be the small independent Canadian companies. That is what Premier Blakeney of Saskatchewan said. It is a pity some of his colleagues in the New Democratic Party did not listen to him more.

Mr. Wilson: They never listen.

Miss MacDonald: Exploration in the north has been cut by 40 per cent or more for the coming year. That is research and development for which there is no replacement on the horizon, and this bill is no panacea for the ills I have listed.

This bill will not make up for the jobs Canadians have lost and are continuing to lose. It will not make up for the decline in productivity or for the extra costs each and every Canadian will have to shoulder as a result of our increasing dependency on expensive offshore oil. If we are to avoid squandering our grandchildren's future as we have begun to squander that of our children, we must reach oil self-sufficiency, and we must do it as quickly as we can. To do that we must use a carrot and not a stick. We must use co-operation and not coercion. We must employ Canadians, not drag them away. The industry needs stimulation, not a cold shoulder. Oh, I know the government will tend to dismiss such objections with a wave of the hand and will say that Canadians will reap such and such a reward if they accept this policy. It is unfortunate that members of the government did not consider the need for a far-sighted Canadian national energy policy when they were allowing so much of our precious oil supplies to be shipped out of this country at bargain basement prices over the last ten years.

I seriously urge the government to re-examine the priorities behind the national policy of which this bill is a part. I ask members of the government to do so in the light of the realities which exist in the world today and which will continue to exist. I ask them to do so in the light of the shortages in oil supplies which will be facing us globally. I suggest to them as well that we cannot afford to continue adding year in and year out to our mountainous national debt. I ask them to act in unison with the oil producers and the provinces in getting on with the National Energy Program. If the government will do that, Canada will attain oil self-sufficiency and control of its resources much more quickly than anything the National Energy Program and this bill now propose.

• (2120)

[*Translation*]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-48 constitutes a fundamental and important element of our national energy policy. However, it should be pointed out that this is not the only bill which will result from our national energy policy. This evening, the previous speaker