

Energy

already done the work and were included in the one million man-years of work? What a policy!

There are all kinds of policies on strategy. Mr. Speaker, have you ever collected together all the strategies and booklets and pamphlets of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources? They have a huge volume of paper that has been used in outlining their strategies. What is the good of a strategy if there is no action? They have a policy called "self-reliance for Canada". What is the good of the policy if nothing has been done to develop the tar sands? There is nothing but talk, bluff, deception, that is all it is, but no action. There is a policy, but nothing is done to carry it out.

What happened at the first minister's meeting, that dim farce of a meeting which we saw on the television screen which was to come up with some resolutions? This was all done by the federal government. I have been at these things. They arrange the whole thing; they are the master of ceremonies, they decide everything, they plan it. They have 500 public relations staff to smother every newsman. The four provinces cannot afford one apiece, but the federal government has them outweighed 50 to 1 in PR flack.

Here is what they said about energy: that the first ministers' strongly affirm the importance of reducing dependence on foreign sources of energy. Gee whiz, that is progress for you! Imagine, the first ministers agreed we should reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy! Who was arguing that we should increase our dependence? Was there a mighty debate in Canada about what should be done, and these ministers got together and said: "By golly, despite all the arguments we think it is important to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy"? In all my time in politics I have never heard anyone say that Canada should become more dependent on foreign sources of energy. That conclusion was a fantastic, gigantic leap forward!

Then they went on to say that they thought that intensive programs of conservation were necessary. Yes, they sure are—conservation in the statements the minister is making. They also said that, in addition, they agreed to collaborate in accelerating major energy developments wherever appropriate. I should like to know what major energy developments have been accelerated and agreed upon since February 15, 1978. All that has happened since then is that the Prime Minister has engaged in this fantastic fracas with the four western premiers, who have pointed out that the recent goings on in the budget with respect to the sales tax have been an infringement of provincial rights and have badly affected the federal-provincial relationship. How will the minister now get Alberta to soften up? The premier of Alberta was driven to say that it was a lousy deal and a lousy way of doing things. Does that sound like the words of a premier who is in love with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Prime Minister? Not on your life. These are the words of a premier who is disgusted by the brutal way the federal system is being treated by the jack-booted government.

So what major energy developments have been accelerated? Not one that I know of, and I hope the minister can think of at

[Mr. Crosbie.]

least one. If he had thought of one, presumably he would have said so the other day.

They say they will expand grain storage facilities at Prince Rupert—that is good. They will open mines in Cape Breton—they have announced that. They will encourage the application for a natural gas pipeline to eastern Canada, the Fundy Tidal power, the Dempster pipeline—we will see about that—the Polar gas project, the Tenneco-Lorneterm project, the Arctic pilot project. If we had as many pilots as they have projects, we would be filled with aviators in Canada. They said that the Ontario government will continue to support Ontario Hydro, Bruce, Pickering, Darlington, Wesleyville, Atikokan. These are all Ontario Hydro projects. What do they have to do with the federal government?

I cannot say that we should pity the government more than be angry with them. I cannot pity them. I am so angry at them that I cannot wait for the election to come.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: I want to see the minister travel across this country, go to the Canadian people and put forward his program of one million jobs, this flimflam man. Mr. Shaheen is an expert flimflammer. The minister should take lessons from Mr. Shaheen if he wants to get into the real flim-flam. He would not sell much snake oil in that way. He is not a natural snake oil salesman, trickster, charlatan.

Time is passing and we want to pass the bill so I will wind up, Mr. Speaker. I would not have spoken except that sitting here this afternoon I thought to myself: why should I suffer in silence?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Actually, I was called over because we thought another bill was going to come forward. The bill not having come forward, I decided to speak tonight about petroleum administration. But if the government wants to call the bill on the Export Development Corporation, I am ready to speak on that piece of legislation this evening.

In concluding—I will not use up all my time because I do not want to waste the time of the House—I will say that here we have a bill to assist the tar sands project which was started three years ago. There is not another project under way in sight, and when the minister is asked a question about the next tar sands project, he tells us that we must ask Alberta about it. Did we elect a national government to sit on its backside and when we ask questions about national policy to tell us that we should ask Alberta? We did not. We elected a government to govern Canada, and let Alberta look after itself.

If we had been asked to vote tonight on the government's performance in the field of energy, I would vote against the bill. But since we are only asked to make it possible to get Syncrude under way, and perhaps, if the government ever acts, another tar sands plant, I will vote for the bill. But it is with a great deal of reluctance that I vote for any bill brought