

the Arab countries which are now turning the tap off and on as they see fit ship very little oil to Canada, 2 per cent of our imports at the most. Then we are almost not affected by the political action of the Arab nations against the whole world regarding the distribution of their oil resources.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is virtually not affected by this problem. Then, why do we have a crisis situation when we have no reason to be affected by this problem? We should get some explanations. But now we can see only one. All this area is controlled by oil corporation trusts. It seems obvious as we should not have such an oil crisis when we have in Canada the oil we need, when it seems there is no reduction in the supply in eastern Canada and particularly in the province of Quebec. Yet we know very well that Arab nations are blackmailing many countries in the world and that in any case, they provide us with little or no oil. All this gives us doubts about the way this government is administering the country.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason for such a crisis. Let us consider our situation as would a Frenchman, an Englishman, a Spaniard, a Belgian who would look at our situation. What do they see? They see, Mr. Speaker, that we are an oil producing country, that we export at least 50 per cent of our production. They would find absolutely stupid an oil producing country which exports more than half of its production and has a crisis situation.

Canada must then be stupid since it finds itself in this situation. We have oil, we sell some to the Americans, and some people have the gall to suggest a freeze. Such a policy is incredible. Anyway, if the problem was one of transport, we would have to wonder how come no adequate policies have been developed in this field. Why, for instance, has no effort been made to create what we have long advocated, namely our own merchant navy? This has never been done. Why is it that, in the field of transportation, we have provided no facilities for supplying oil to eastern Canada?

Once again, we are faced with the fact that this government has forgotten what the government of any self-respecting country should do. But if we have been confused by the intricacies of this pseudo-crisis, Mr. Speaker—

● (1710)

Mr. Speaker, did we want at all cost to avoid offending the Americans? At times, the government is so conscious about this that it says: you, easterners, freeze a little! Turn down the heat and close the windows. Do not use your snowmobiles this winter. Do without a lot of things because we will send our oil to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is almost funny. In spite of everything, supposing that it became necessary for the government to supply the United States and granted that there is a transportation problem in this country, this is no reason why Canada could not find other supply sources than Arab countries and why we should freeze here to please the Americans, because we do not want Arab oil.

Mr. Speaker, in Quebec especially, people are becoming quite familiar with that problem. We know very well that Arab countries are willing to supply us with the oil we need in the East but, of course, we must understand that

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they are not interested in selling this oil in order that we can tranship it to the United States. It is quite understandable. This afternoon, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), during the question period, answered a question by my colleague from Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) asking whether the government was considering the possibility of establishing embassies in the Arab countries who have oil, with a barely audible no.

Mr. Speaker, is it conceivable that at a time when an oil shortage is foreseen and oil producing countries are willing to sell us some oil, the government is not even thinking of opening embassies in those Arab countries, when we have some in other Arab countries that do not produce oil? It is unbelievable but that is the situation.

In his last election campaign, the Quebec premier talked about superports to be built with Arab capital. How do you explain that the whole scheme fall through when Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Massé meet with their federal counterparts? There are strange coincidences and I would be inclined to think that the federal government, in order to save somebody or other—maybe its little brother in Quebec—refused to enter into agreements with Arab countries. It is always the same policy, to freeze everything, but the potential is there. Let us not develop it.

How is it that our country is involved in international disputes like the Israeli-Arab conflict. What business is it of ours? Why should we create bad blood between both sides and why could we not be considered a friendly country by Arab countries? I can make nothing of it. Maybe we want to freeze everything?

Mr. Speaker, those facts may be hard to take but they are true. And because they are facts, they must be brought out in order that attempts be made to find the means of remedying the present situation.

Mr. Speaker, if something positive and concrete is to be done, in view of the situation we are witnessing today, it is high time we cease to allow companies, trusts, monopolies, pools to do as they please and decide whether there is a shortage or not. It is up to us to find the means of ensuring a much more stable consumption of the energy required by all Canadians. We must put a stop to mysterious goings-on, to hesitant policies, and see things as they are: then we can remedy the situation appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, there are certainly various ways of eliminating waste in the field of energy so as to determine the action to be taken in order to live in a minimum of comfort. I think that these problems always arise from an unrealistic basic policy having nothing in common with a natural economy that can really enable all Canadian consumers to take advantage of this country's potential. I believe we have here an excellent opportunity of showing that only a government inspired by economic policies such as those we advocate could avoid these crises.

Even if someone once again argues that we are harping on the same theme, Mr. Speaker, I will answer that when we have a potential of physical natural resources as we do in Canada and when we rely on these resources that we find all over the country it is scandalous. However, with the kind of system that the Social Credit would apply, Mr. Speaker, such a situation could not exist since we would have a daily inventory of our possibilities, of our capacit-