

ter (Mr. Trudeau) and by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the two Bobbsey twins from Pollyanna-ville. Their comments with regard to this energy crisis have been a little different, have varied from time to time, and have not always created that sense of urgency regarding the passage of this bill intimidated by the government.

For example, the Prime Minister said on November 22:

Our current assessment is that oil rationing at the retail level will not be necessary.

If Canadians generously support the voluntary program—and I know they will—there is every prospect that shortages can be minimized throughout this winter.

On September 20 of this year, on a television program, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said this:

In a sense, this is a passing situation in Canada because we've got new refinery construction under way which will be completed in the fall of next year, and further refinery construction will be completed in the year after.

Is that the kind of statement on which to base the far reaching and extraordinary powers for which the government is now asking us?

On October 16, 1973, the same minister, in speaking to that society of which the Prime Minister is so fond, the Royal Society of Canada, said:

Comparing the Canadian situation with that of other developed nations of the world, for example Germany and Japan, we are not on the whole in too dangerous a situation.

Compared to other nations, Canada is in a relatively fortunate position.

On October 7, not so long ago, on a television program the minister said:

Well, Canadians have been more fortunate than many other people. In terms of shortages the government has been able to take action by way of export controls to make sure that Canadian refineries will continue to have supplies of oil to turn into gasoline, into heating oil, and also to make sure that there will be supplies of gasoline and heating oil throughout the year.

This statement was made less than two months ago by the minister who has now come here to demand these extraordinary powers.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It was made before the war.

Mr. Baldwin: The minister has already quoted from the first report which was tabled last June in which he points with pride to the fact that the report deals with the question of the war. He knew about it then, he knew about the possibility then.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I did not know about the war, did you?

Mr. Baldwin: It was certainly under contemplation at that time. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), that great Canadian who is in difficulty now because of the fact that he has not been given, as he ought to have been given, more authority in relation to this problem than the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources—however, this is a family feud and I do not want to become involved in it—said before the Commons committee yesterday:

It is very important that Canadians do not overreact to pessimistic scenarios based at this stage on inadequate information about the oil crisis.

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

I have a feeling that that statement was directed at the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: They are fighting the convention battle already.

Mr. Baldwin: The Minister of Finance has been in the cabinet long enough to know all about inadequate information. He went on to say:

While we must be concerned . . . there is no justification at this moment for panic and pessimism.

Canada is in a much better position with regard to energy supplies than most other industrial countries.

● (1610)

Amen. May I refer to the *Globe and Mail*, Mr. Speaker? I quote the *Globe and Mail* when I should and they quote me when they should. There is a very interesting editorial in that newspaper today anticipating this debate entitled "Warm Measures Act". I refer to it because they take a very sensible position, namely, that before we accept in total all of those exorbitant demands which this government is making, we want to be satisfied there is in fact a need for the legislative provisions contained in this bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: So I am glad to cite that editorial, briefly and concur with the *Globe and Mail* at this time, Mr. Speaker. I could go on ad infinitum—ad nauseam. The hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen), who sits in the Liberal caucus, knows very well the kind of statements he gets from ministers and that is why he uses the term "ad nauseam" in describing them. I say in a purely political sense that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the minister are disreputable witnesses and their testimony is discredited and suspect when they come to this House and demand that we give the government, without further scrutiny, without further challenge, without further information, the kind of powers that they are asking. I would think that if you went to trial defending a man on a murder charge with witnesses of this kind he would be found guilty of attempted suicide.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is surely inappropriate, right at this point in time, for us to pass without further challenge this particular legislation. Certainly, people want to provide for the present difficulties and they want to provide for the future. We have never opposed, and we do not oppose now, a reasonable program of allocation at the wholesale level and, if necessary, of rationing with certain limitation. However, Mr. Speaker, that is extraordinarily different from the gigantic intrusion into so many aspects of the life of the Canadian people that is being requested here. I say the burden is on the government, as it is with any legislative program and certainly, doubly so with legislation of this character, to establish the need for this legislation in all its aspects. So far they have not discharged that burden.

Mr. Hees: Thumper has tried to become C. D. Howe Mark II.