

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

sede the Combines Investigation Act in part; it appears to ride roughshod over environmental statutes; it supersedes the Transportation Act, the Motor Vehicle Transport Act, the Export Act and the Export and Import Permits Act which has been in effect since 1947.

Mr. Speaker, one wonders why at this particular time the government seems to be in such indecent haste to pass this bill holus-bolus without, as far as I know, having any meaningful opportunity for knowledgeable people in the industry and the provinces to come before the relevant standing committee to testify and give advice. At least in Bill C-132 the government gave the provinces and the other interested parties an opportunity to do this. The hearings were quite lengthy and everyone who wished to do so had the opportunity to speak and to put their feelings on the record.

For the balance of this winter, unless the crisis is a great deal more serious than the minister has led us to believe, I do not see why the simple power to allocate and ration would not suffice for this government. I hope when this bill is sent to committee that the government and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will pause and reflect on the advisability of taking a more tolerant and less dictatorial and totalitarian attitude toward this whole legislation and will give a little attention to some of the amendments that I am sure will be forthcoming from all members of the House interested in civil and provincial rights.

Since much has been said about the position of the province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker, I think the editorial in today's *Ottawa Journal* seems to stand up very well as far as it concerns reaction to the Prime Minister's remarks in Vancouver. I think it would be only fair to point out that far from being the selfish, oil-grabbing sheik that he has been portrayed to be by certain members opposite, the Premier of Alberta has given every indication that he is making every effort to achieve the maximum production, for the general good of Canada, of Alberta's petroleum resources. In fact, if he were to take a more selfish view and curtail production and leave some of the oil in the ground, thus taking a narrow, provincially-oriented view, probably in terms of future dollars and cents his province would be much better off. I think it is time that people in the House of Commons recognized this, and I think it ill behooves the leader of the federal government to go out of his way to malign the Premier of Alberta. I hope this will not happen as often in the future—hopefully, never in the future—as it has happened in the past.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKay:** Looking briefly at some of the provisions of Bill C-236, it is very interesting to see what clause 34 says. It is a very short clause and appears to be designed to make certain that the provincial administrations are bound beyond the shadow of a doubt, because all it says is:

Her Majesty is bound by this act.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Anti-monarchy!

**Mr. MacKay:** It may well be, as the hon. member says, that it is an anti-monarchy act. If it is not, it is anti everything else. When looking at the powers given under this piece of legislation, one wonders what the minister

[Mr. MacKay.]

has left out. They can practically do everything but sell fish and chips and mine gold under this act and do so at the expense of the province.

**An hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. MacKay:** I notice that the head office of this proposed body, that will have the great power to allocate and ration and do everything else that they would like to do, appears to be designed to be in Ottawa. That is hardly surprising in view of past experience, but one would wonder why they could not put the head office where the main supply of energy is, whether it is hydrocarbon or petroleum—that is, in the western provinces. Why must it be in Ottawa?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKay:** Surely there should be some minimum standard on the qualifications of the people who are to sit on this board. I see that they may hold office at pleasure. There is no particular measure put in there to limit their term of office, and there does not appear to be any qualifying standard or measure of administrative, technical or procedural ability either. It would be easy to say, I believe unkindly, that it is another refuge for defeated Liberal candidates or partisans of the government. I hope this does not occur. I do not mean to be unkind by suggesting this, but surely if there is to be any amount of expertise generated particular qualifications should be laid out for the people who hope to sit on this very important board.

**Mr. Patterson:** Most of the defeated Liberal candidates have already got jobs.

**Mr. MacKay:** There is another aspect of this so-called crisis that has been dwelt upon in passing by some hon. members, but I think it should be mentioned again. There does not seem to be any unanimity amongst members of the treasury benches as to whether there really is a crisis in this country in so far as energy is concerned. If there really is a crisis, I am sure no hon. member would wish to quibble in any respect with the government's request that it be given emergency powers. We have the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) saying, in effect, that we never had it so good and we are going to have a great, great year next year and there will not be any adverse effects at all; or if there are, somehow it will all turn out to be good for us. Then we hear the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources saying at various times that there is going to be a shortfall of "X" thousand barrels, or there is likely to be a curtailment of supply from Arab sources because of political ramifications. In such a situation you wonder who to believe.

● (2030)

Is there a crisis, or is there not? The much heralded technical advisory committee to which the minister referred seems to be—I do not want to be unfair and malign his committee—like that mythical dagger in Hamlet. The quote, as I recall, is as follows: "Is this a dagger that I see before me, with its handle towards my hand? I have thee not, yet I see thee still. Or art thou a dagger of the mind, a false illusion?" That about sums up