

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

I often think it is our fault that the media do not realize what the government is doing, and therefore I think I am at fault I cannot get the press to understand that they are being indifferent to the causes of people. This is my fault and I accept that, but with all of the speeches I have heard in this debate I wish somebody, somewhere, sometime would influence the minister and get him to see what is happening. I refer not only to the environment and the Combines Investigation Act but to the invasion of provincial rights in the field of electrical energy. But this means nothing to them.

● (2020)

What do we have to do to influence the government, Mr. Speaker? Member after member has brought this matter to their attention. Have the government made any changes in the legislation? Have they made any proposals to the opposition that perhaps the bill should be altered in this way or that? Heavens no; they go on in their own arrogant way. I repeat that the legislation has been improperly conceived. It was born of indifference but is going to raise a monster, a monster who will stalk this country up and down from coast to coast and tear at the sinews and bones of the confederation, of the body politic, which is now somewhat tenuously held together. If the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is not aware of this, that is his fault; he has failed to have consultations with the provinces in this regard. I believe the things possible through this measure are so insidious that they could tear apart the sinews, bones and marrow of what we know as confederation, or this glorious and beloved country of Canada. This bill could stalk our country and tear apart as well its economic and social fabric.

I do not know why the minister feels the bill is necessary, since laws are available to him at the moment to do the very thing this legislation wants to do. I, for one, am not convinced that there is an energy crisis, though we may have some problems. But let us start to solve these problems in the proper way. Oil is going to be a diminishing resource, as we all know, and so is natural gas. Therefore, why does the government not bring in legislation to conduct research into the use of biomass or solar energy?

**An hon. Member:** In what year?

**Mr. Morgan:** Do it now. That is what the government should be doing instead of putting this kind of legislation before the House, legislation that makes use of the War Measures Act mean nothing.

One of the problems, as I see it, with this so-called piece of legislation is that it does not deal with a real emergency but with an anticipated emergency. You can anticipate anything you want. But the bill gives this horrific board, these supermen or call them what you will, power to do anything they want and makes them responsible only to the Governor in Council. In other words, if the minister gets his way, two or three people are going to control the country, and I do not think the minister should have that power; it is as simple as that. Why anticipate anything? If there is a war, a resolution is put before the House and we decide what the country should do. If there is a railway strike, we decide what the country is going to do. But this minister decides for himself which way his road will go. I

[Mr. Morgan.]

remind him that the high road chooses the high way and the low road chooses the low way, and in between the misty flats rest drifting to and fro. I suggest to the House that this minister is drifting; he does not know which way to go.

I have one final comment for the minister. I understand he has left the chamber, so I hope he will read it in *Hansard*. Let me tell him that power corrupts, and that absolute power corrupts absolutely. He is asking this House to make power corrupt absolutely.

**Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to take part in the debate on Bill C-236, the so-called energy supplies emergency act, I want immediately to make it clear that my comments will be divided into three sections. First of all, I want to criticize the legislation itself, which I believe to be a great potential threat to the history of industrial and economic democracy this nation has known for more than one century. Second, I want to give a real outline of the so-called "energy crisis", the crisis that this country is not experiencing and which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his cabinet ministers are exaggerating for their own ends. And third, I want to talk about the great threat that the Liberal government's policies are creating to the continued unity of this great nation, a nation in confederation that I want my children's grandchildren, and their grandchildren, to enjoy for many years to come. The Prime Minister, the man who was to unify this nation, has, I am afraid, seriously undermined our nation's unity and the brotherly love of one Canadian for another, no matter what language he speaks or culture and heritage he holds dear.

Let me deal with the legislation itself, Mr. Speaker. The Liberal government freely admits it is a measure to provide for an allocation board for mandatory supplies and rationing of controlled products. The government says that this legislation and the proposed board are only an insurance. It admits that the board and these measures may not be needed. So why should we have legislation and such trimmings? Why provide the board with such awesome authority, the likes of which have rarely been seen before in peacetime Canada, except perhaps for the War Measures Act, the provisions of which were invoked to deal with the October 1970 kidnapping crisis, an action which my close colleague the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche) has already said was an over-reaction.

The government has brought forward this legislation because from it it can derive more power than it can legally obtain under our great democratic parliamentary system of government. As always, and as another of my colleagues, the former Prime Minister of Canada, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), has said, the current government wants to diminish the role of parliament in this country. Parliamentary government has too many safeguards for the people, the Prime Minister and the other two of the three wise men from Quebec; the Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand), to accept. This legislation is another chop at the tree of democratic parliamentary government in this country. It will invest tremendous power in a small group of people under the utter domination and direction of the cabinet, and it will take away the