

Energy

been ground into the ground by the minister and his compatriots because our oil and gas is under the water first and then it is under the land. There is no difference except the H₂O is in the way, and the government has seized on to the excuse of the H₂O to screw Newfoundland into the dust. But we are not taking it because the P.C. party, when it is elected this year, Mr. Chairman, is going to reverse the government's centralizing policy, the government's "greedy guts" federalism. We are going to change that, and we are going to confirm the provinces as being the owners of the oil and gas and minerals under the continental shelf off their shores—Nova Scotia, P.E.I., New Brunswick, Newfoundland, British Columbia and some of those other provinces that have got coasts too, such as Manitoba and a few of the other provinces in western Canada. We are going to confirm that they own and control the oil and gas. We are going to stop this heavy-handed, ham-fisted brutalization of the provinces by this government.

We are going to instil co-operative federalism. We are going to do what the Prime Minister said ten years ago he was going to do before he put the jackboots of federalism on and stamped all over the provinces for ten years. Brutality gone berserk. Mr. Speaker, all that is needed is for the federal government to stop playing this con game, pretending it is up to Alberta, and put forward to Shell a fiscal regime for the federal government that will induce Shell to go and start this tar sands plant immediately.

With the figures staring us in the face, with the effect on our balance of payments, this crowd has got us now quasi bankrupt. Dare I say it? That is where they have got us. I am only saying "quasi" to cover myself and be polite. What state are we going to be in in 1985 when a third of our oil imports will come from outside Canada? And what is the price going to be? The estimates are something like \$20, \$25, \$30 a barrel that we will have to pay, and we have not even got the time now to get a tar sands plant on by 1985 because of the hesitation of this government, because of the kinds of games it tries to play in federal-provincial relations.

Now, there is a heavy oil situation. That we are hoping is going to get under way too, but the tar sands is a better prospect or a surer prospect than just the heavy oil. Frontier oil is the same kind of game being played by the hon. minister.

The legislation, Mr. Speaker, that is before this House now is not going to do great things for Canada. It only carries out promises that were made to Syncrude several years ago. It does nothing to get the third tar sands plant under way. It does nothing to get a heavy oil plant under way. It does nothing to get the frontier gas and oil developed. It is hogwash. It is not even oil, not even seal oil. And for the minister to try the other day to blame Alberta, well, it shows a bankrupt government, Mr. Speaker, when they are always looking for some other government to blame.

What else did the minister say the other day? He said:

I am confident that in the spirit we have been able to work out these other arrangements we will also be able to work out the new fiscal regime . . .

What spirit? We saw the kind of spirit the government has, Mr. Speaker, last week when the government kicked the

province of Quebec in the teeth when the province of Quebec wanted to deal in its own way with its own sales tax. The federal government kicked them in the teeth and said "No, although it is one-third of your own money you have got to put up and two thirds of ours, we are not going to listen to what you want to do with your own sales tax". That is the kind of spirit. That is the way they are offering matters to Quebec and Alberta and the rest of the provinces. The minister said:

I hope we will be successful in being able to produce close to one million barrels a day from the tar sand and heavy oils of western Canada by 1990.

Now, how are we, Mr. Speaker, going to meet that objective with this kind of temporizing and indecision, with this kind of inaction, with the minister sitting back waiting for Alberta? It is like that play "Waiting for Godot", or whoever he was. He never did come. Godot never did come, Mr. Speaker, and Alberta may never come; but the tar sands are still going to be there, and the Canadian people are going to need them. We cannot afford to wait for Godot, or for Gillespie either. We have got to have a government that is going to act now.

Our assistant whip said the other night, and he is quite right, that it is useless to try to persuade hon. gentlemen opposite. Mr. Speaker, why should I waste my time trying to persuade the hon. members opposite? He said we are whistling in the dark. Well, this is a government that governs in the dark. The left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. The digit finger does not know what the other finger is doing, the "indignet" finger. Whistling in the dark is quite right.

● (2122)

Did the minister say anything else? Yes, he did. Imagine, after making those silly statements, he went on to make more. He was asked a question by one of the hon. members from Calgary, I do not remember his riding, about when Canadians can expect the next agreement on the Alberta oil sands to be reached. The minister's answer, as reported at page 4489 of *Hansard*, was as follows:

The first question had to do with when the next agreement with respect to the tar sands will be reached. I would be much better able to answer the hon. member if he could tell me when the Alberta government will decide upon the royalty system it is going to introduce with respect to the tar sands.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this kind of guff impresses no one. It did not impress the Canadian people when they saw it. They could not believe their eyes until they saw the Liberal policy-swiping convention a week or two later and realized it was true that these people were actually governing the country.

The minister says he can give the answer if the hon. member over here could tell him when Alberta could decide on something. Do we have a national government concerned about our energy situation or do we not? Have we a government that is doing nothing but playing politics with the hopes and aspirations of the people, as they did with the people in Newfoundland, the 11,000 unemployed who thought they would get work on Gull Island only to find out two weeks later that Gull Island will be studied again? Or the people in Kitimat, British Columbia, or the people in James Bay, the thousands who had