

Apparently they have no idea of the precarious position of Canada which so much depends on foreign oil, those oil supplies and prices which are indeed beyond our control. The energy self-sufficiency which we proposed as a government is not only a praiseworthy aim but it is absolutely necessary for national security and economic development. Among all nations of the world we have a unique opportunity to become self-sufficient in the field of energy.

The Speech from the Throne does not give much specific information about the position of the government on energy prices. Price is a matter of dollars and cents and it is high time that the government disclose to the Canadian people the cost of energy not only for this year but for the next three or four years.

[*English*]

It is time too, Madam Speaker, that the government comes clean with Canadians over its exact intentions in regard to the oil import compensation program. Again we have a reference in the Speech from the Throne, as we did during the election campaign, to phasing out the oil import compensation program. That program is going to cost the federal treasury at least \$2.6 billion during the current fiscal year, and at current trends it will almost double by 1985. This is the program that ensures a single price across the country and subsidizes consumption in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

● (1530)

If the government intends to phase that program out, as it promised yesterday in the Speech from the Throne and as the Prime Minister promised during the election campaign, then who will pay the billions of dollars in extra costs? I see that there is present a member from Cape Breton Island, an area where there is a heavy dependence on imported oil. Will it be the people of Cape Breton who will be chosen and selected to pay that extra burden because they elected a Liberal government? Who will pay that extra \$2.6 billion, a figure which will increase dramatically between now and 1985? Will it be a special burden imposed upon consumers in Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, or is it the intention to spread that price across the entire country so that the price every Canadian pays for oil will go up much more dramatically than was proposed in the budget brought down last December by my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West?

The government's so-called blended price, from what is known about it, would take an increase this year of at least \$6 a barrel in domestic prices to offset the current cost of imports. The party opposite ran against a \$4 increase, and perhaps they are planning a \$6 increase for Canadians. If they wish to hide it this year they will dump it on the backs of Canadians next year. We in this country have a right to know the details. We have a right to have the minister of energy tell the truth to this Parliament and the people of Canada as to exactly what will be the price of oil and exactly how they intend to achieve that price.

The Address—Mr. Clark

Let me turn for a moment to the question of international affairs. In the throne speech the government proclaims that one of its basic goals is to ensure that Canada plays what it calls a vigorous role in international affairs. It seems to me that the government exhausted all of its vigour in simply stating that goal, because what follows in the speech shows nothing that is vigorous or even encouraging, except for the welcome confirmation that it intends to carry through the initiative started by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), to strengthen the disarmament component in the Department of External Affairs.

The 1980s, Madam Speaker, will not be an easy decade in international affairs. It seems certain to be a period of virtually continuous regional instability. The world economy is fragile, and the intentions and the options of the Third World have hardly begun to be defined. Unhappily as well, there is every indication that relations between the super powers are deteriorating.

This is not a time when nations like Canada will have the luxury of flirting with soft-headed notions of neutrality. A starting point for Canadian foreign policy in the 1980s must be to know ourselves, to know, understand and respect the values and the goals of this democratic nation, and to make sure that the world knows exactly whom we regard as our friends and where we stand on basic issues.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: We in this party are under no illusions whatsoever as to who are our friends. Our principal ally remains the United States of America, not because of the accident of geography, but because of the act of sharing basic goals and basic ideals. There are times and there are issues that go to the very heart of one's values, one's beliefs and one's friendships. We believe that now is one of those times.

That is why we responded as we did in Tehran. That is why we supported as a government, and continue to support as a party, a boycott of the Moscow Olympics. That is why I am appalled at the reluctance of this government to show any leadership or, what is worse, to show any conviction on the Olympic question or, indeed, in response to President Carter's request for additional pressure on Iran to free the hostages. We on this side of the House do not believe your real friends hide in the crowd until it is safe to stick their heads up.

I know that the Prime Minister has strong personal views on this matter. He has expressed them in the Soviet Union, and he also expressed them the night of his victory when he equated our relation with the Soviet Union and the United States of America. I suspect that it is the very influence and strength of his personal views, particularly given, for the first time in my recollection, a foreign minister who sits on the second bench of Parliament, a foreign minister who is a puppet on a string for the Prime Minister of Canada. I suspect that that is one of the reasons this government has refused to allow a full and open review of Canadian foreign policy.

As the House knows, we as a government were ready and prepared to have that kind of review because we believe that