

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

And, as the previous speaker said, they forget, on the other hand, to ensure Canadians a fair price or a price truly representative of the costs of that production or those so-called controls.

I say that this is a case where the pretence of a crisis is used to control all energy resources. Clause 14 goes even further, and I quote:

14. (1) Where it is considered necessary to do so for the purpose of conserving the available supplies of such petroleum products as have been included in a mandatory allocation program, the Governor in Council may amend the mandatory allocation program by adding electric power thereto and establishing mandatory allocation thereof.

The bill before us is not a bill aimed at controlling petroleum energy resources, but rather all energy resources.

Clause 15 goes on to state:

—any alternative fuel—

—not the oil problem that faces us now, but alternative fuels. It goes on:

—within the meaning of section 13 or electric power will be regulated as to allocation of supply and pricing—

There again, the pretence of a crisis is used to ensure control and not an assessment or the ensurance of fair distribution at equal prices across Canada. The bill does not talk about that. When the ensurance of a distribution is sought or when it talks about ensuring some distribution, nowhere does it talk about ensuring fair, or at least equal, prices to all Canadians.

We will still have the same system as now where there is a price for western Canada and another for eastern Canada. We were told why our petroleum in the province of Quebec and the Maritimes Provinces came from outside Canada. So we were subject to international prices.

I agree that a board must be set up but it should be responsible for evaluating resources and requirements and should advise the government as to what precise steps it should take to meet the needs of Canadians. If such a study had been undertaken two or three years ago the construction of a pipeline to the east would have been initiated. On the contrary, we have wasted all this time helping the major oil companies with guaranteed revenues to the detriment of Canadians. Again today, to favour the big corporations and allow them to increase their benefits to the prejudice of Canadians, they suggest a crisis and a price increase.

Once again today, as I have suggested to the minister, what effort did the government actually make to help the people? Absolutely none! For instance our fellow citizens have been obliged to bow to the government decisions, to accept price increases, to accept restrictions, but the government forgets once more to guarantee the country maximum exploitation of its energy resources.

This afternoon, I told the minister that patents have been submitted to reduce the gas consumption of vehicles and increase the efficiency of a gallon of gas. The same thing could be done in our houses with our heating facilities. We could simply raise the pump pressure of a heating system from 100 to 150 pounds and thus automatically

[Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix).]

decrease oil consumption by 20 per cent. Why is it not mentioned by the minister? Why is the minister not suggesting precisely that by using those patents we improve the return of our resources? Why has the minister, other ministers or the government not ordered its research personnel to study these patents and accept some of them for the benefit of the individual, and not, as in the past, to consider dangerous certain patents, only to assure companies, especially oil companies, maximum consumption of their products? And now, while we are supposedly facing a shortage which in fact does not exist, instead of acting for the good of the whole population, the people are asked to tighten their belt and, moreover, to help big corporations.

The bill provides the government with means to keep on lying to the people, fooling them, limiting individual liberties at all times by saying that we are facing another crisis, another mess. This legislation will then be used to stifle the citizen and to impose the desired restrictions. The present situation will prevail but in a much more legal way. The two price system, one for the East and one for the West, will be maintained throughout Canada.

More restrictions can be imposed on some parts of the country for the benefit of other parts. We can go on with our regional disparity policy.

The bill as a whole is further proof that the government is much more interested in obtaining money for its electoral funds through the large corporations than in meeting the needs of the population.

If we want to control, as we are now doing, the need for products and their distribution, I think that we could go much further in imposing these unfortunate controls and suggest something like the NDP members were suggesting a while ago, that is controlling everything by selection. The Liberals may find this funny, but they are progressively going towards such selective controls.

No consideration is given to protecting the individuals through all this. The aim is always to protect the large corporations to the disadvantage of individual interests. What I hope is that during the discussions in committee it will be possible to review this bill in full details in order to integrate amendments which will put an end to these attacks upon the individuals and to this protection of the large corporations.

● (1720)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, allow me first to argue briefly against the views expressed by the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Caouette).

First, he started with the premise that there was no oil crisis. Mr. Speaker, I wonder where he has been for the last couple of months, whether he is aware of the Middle East crisis and whether he is really serious when he suggests that obviously, as far as he is concerned at least, there is no crisis.

He says that he lacks information on the oil situation in Canada. Yet, we know that in February, March, April, May and June this year, the Committee on National Resources and Public Works has been sitting. We have made a study of all this information. We have questioned