

Oil and Petroleum

However, you and I, Mr. Speaker, know it does have problems. But what does the government do in its infinite wisdom? It seconds the deputy minister of that department and makes him the chairman of the task force to build a pipeline from Sarnia to Montreal. We deprive the department of his talents, and put him into a task force to build a pipeline. He must have been lassoed pretty well. Some hon. members may recall the days of Tonto and the Lone Ranger. They used to lasso the good guys and the bad guys. This deputy minister must have been well lassoed around the old jugular, the old vocal chords, because we have not heard of him since then. I do not know whether he has yet produced a report on the pipeline. In fact that pipeline may have the same place in Canadian history as the old ICR in our history.

Mr. Oberle: Tell us about it.

Mr. Nowlan: I am grateful to the hon. member for that intervention, Mr. Speaker. The ICR was short for Inter Colonial Railway. It was built for security reasons to help those of us who lived in the Atlantic provinces to get to Central Canada, without being cut off at the pass by invidious Americans. You know, these feelings of nationalism did not begin with Pierre Berton or even with Peter Newman. Nationalism has for more than a century been a catalyst in the creation of this tremendous country of Canada. Anyway, the government of that day built the ICR so that the perfidious Americans could not cut us off at the pass—so that we could get to Central Canada, and tramp down to York.

It is for somewhat similar reasons we are now considering the building of this pipeline. We are trying to ensure security of supply. But I venture to say it will take another war in the Middle East before we find out what that deputy minister has come up with, Mr. Speaker.

I do not wish to leave this aspect altogether without reminding hon. members that we may have resources of oil in the east. It is not easy, as I have said, to make much progress at the present because of jurisdictional difficulties—people do not know whether to get a provincial licence or a federal licence, or both. However, the prospect is there, so we say the pipeline should not go just to Montreal but that it should be built further east to ice-free water along the St. Lawrence, so that if eastern offshore oil is discovered in the future the pipeline could be used to pump it from east to west.

● (2120)

Rather than always dealing with the Middle East situation and concentrating so much of our time on jurisdictional and constitutional infighting relating to the central authority versus the provincial authority, particularly on those questions which involve the production of oil, we would be much better to concentrate on questions relating to the research and development of new sources of energy.

Not too many years ago there was a gentleman who taught in parables because he found it easier to make people understand through parables than in any other way. That reminds me of the government, which deals in paradoxes. The government would have us think it is seriously concerned about the supply of oil and energy generally, but it has done very little in the way of provid-

[Mr. Nowlan.]

ing funds for research and development for other energy sources.

This government's entire emphasis on sciences is bewildering, and I suggest that this is evident in the changes in policy that have occurred in respect of our defence research board and our National Research Council. We continue to see policies change with transfers from one section to another section, with the government playing one department of science against another department of science.

Recently there was a Senate task force in respect of science, and I suggest that confused the situation even more. Now we have a gracious lady who has been given responsibilities in the field of science. I hope she is able to come to grips with this whole science fabrication of the government.

An hon. Member: She has been shifted.

Mr. Nowlan: Well I knew that her grace and charm would not allow her to content herself in those sterile laboratories of science. I am sure that she is now prepared to accept the wider challenges of the environment. She was not there for very long, but she has left behind her, in those areas of science where the federal government has a concern, a very demoralized staff, and I think particularly of the science aspect of our defence forces.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: Anyone across the way who moans and groans about that suggestion, and is a disbeliever, has not really talked to the scientists in the various sections of the federal government. Be that as it may, where is the leadership in respect of providing increased funds for research and development in the search for new energy sources? I am not going to talk about solar energy or nuclear energy, because we have some expertise in these fields. However, it has always been a mystery to me as a member from Atlantic Canada, representing the riding of Annapolis Valley, which borders on the Fundy Bay area, why the government has not done something about harnessing tidal power.

The Fundy tides are the second highest or the highest in the world, depending on how patriotic one is, Mr. Speaker. I do not know how many hon. gentlemen opposite, or in my party, have read the feasibility studies, or the review of the feasibility studies in respect of harnessing the Fundy tides. One of the facts produced by the feasibility study is that in one tide, in the Fundy Bay, there is as much water involved as the amount of water that flows by Prescott on the St. Lawrence with all the potential kilowatt energy there.

For eons that tide has come in and has gone out. We have had a feasibility study, and a review of the feasibility study. I understand we have now had a third study, or a review of the review of the feasibility study, yet there has been no decision taken in respect of the potential hydro power source in that area. That is a fundamental source of renewable energy. It is a more non-polluting source of energy than any other that I can think of, and it is about time a decision was made.