

Anyone who has examined this scheme would be baffled by the Government's negative reaction. The project would benefit several small Canadian firms that were hard hit by the National Energy Program. It would increase Canada's domestic oil supply, and it would create thousands of jobs, most notably through the construction of a major drydock facility in Nanaimo, B.C.

As I say, the Government's opposition is baffling unless one takes into account the fact that approval of this project would require Liberal Ministers, such as the Minister of Finance, to admit to a major mistake. Of course the mistake is that the National Energy Program includes a regulation and incentive structure that is only beneficial for companies looking for a mammoth oil discovery in the North, a discovery which in all likelihood will not be made.

There is no incentive system to produce tens of millions of barrels from small-scale deposits which have already been found. When there is a choice between a project that means thousands of jobs, increased oil production, and help for Canadian companies, or saving Liberal Cabinet Ministers from humiliation prior to an election, it is obvious how the Government will act.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTHEAST COAL PROJECT

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, despite heated warnings, and sound advice from a western Senator on August 6, 1980, the Liberal Government decided to proceed with the development of Northeast Coal. I have opposed this project from the very beginning, and presented over 2,000 petitions to the House of Commons, stating that these new projects will result in an overproduction of coal in terms of markets available to southeastern British Columbia.

I have called for a united front in the communities throughout the riding, urging the coal producers, workers, and municipal representatives to meet on a regular basis to protect the interests of the coal producers and the workers. Despite this, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia signed an agreement in February, 1981, to proceed with the development of Northeast Coal.

I have also called upon the communities to endorse a resolution for the sale of western Canadian coal to central Canada markets. The New Democratic Party and the United Mineworkers of America called for a joint federal-provincial task force to be created. This was rejected by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Province of Alberta has now recognized the importance of this resolution and has taken steps to ensure that it is fully investigated, which leaves out the producers of southeast British Columbia and the workers involved in the coal mines.

Oral Questions

An executive of Fording Coal has described the situation as an economic crisis, and I plead with the Minister to use his influence with the Minister of Energy in the Province of British Columbia to ensure that the coal producers and the workers of southeast British Columbia have equal opportunity of supplying the coal markets of central Canada, especially since the whole problem was created by the untimely development of the Northeast Coal project by both the federal and provincial Governments.

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POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—CALL FOR EXAMINATION OF BOOKS

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I take advantage of this opportunity to give the new Leader of the Liberal Party a piece of advice. Since he maintained throughout the campaign that he could not tell Canadians or members of his own Party anything about his fiscal policies until he had seen the books of the Government of Canada, and since he claims that he will bring a new breath and a new life to the affairs of government as managed by the Liberal Party, I suggest that his first act within the next 24 hours should be to order that the books of the Sports Pool Corporation be opened to the House of Commons.

The House of Commons knows full well that that operation is riddled with incompetence, patronage, and every arrogant misuse of power for which the Liberal Party is famous. I suggest in all sincerity that the future Prime Minister clearly put his stamp on his Party immediately and open the books of the corporation to let the House of Commons see the contracts and finally find out whether the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mr. Olivier) has been telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Otherwise, Canadians will have every reason to believe that the new Leader of the Liberal Party is no better than his predecessors.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

LIBERAL PARTY LEADER—ACCESS TO CABINET DOCUMENTS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Could he tell the House of Commons whether the new Leader of the Liberal Party will be privy to any confidential Cabinet documents during the period that he remains a director of Canadian Pacific Limited, Bechtel, Massey-Ferguson, and other corporations?