

Unemployment

from the United States than it desires, primarily because it is short of American dollars. Canada's self-sufficiency in petroleum would eliminate its greatest single drain of United States dollars, an item of some \$300 million yearly, and make funds available for purchase of other American products.

Continued growth of Alberta's oil and gas industry will greatly strengthen Canada's economy, particularly in the prairie area which has long depended on a single industry, agriculture.

From the viewpoint of both nations—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I understood the hon. member to say that he was going to complete this statement very shortly. I find that in a debate of this kind the question of relevancy is very difficult to determine because, as the hon. member who has the floor rightly pointed out, many factors enter into the subject of unemployment. Nevertheless, I must also find that there is considerable merit in the point of order raised by the Minister of Labour. Hon. members cannot use the vehicle of a debate on unemployment to institute a debate on another particular subject. I must therefore ask the hon. member to confine himself to the subject of oil, if he wishes to do so, but in so far as it relates to the problem of employment or unemployment.

Mr. Nickle: I trust I am doing just that.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Nickle: Very obviously, as I said in my opening remarks an industry which has grown from infancy to one supporting half a million Canadians is a vital part of the Canadian economy, and the employment provided by that industry is a matter which logically can be discussed before the house in all its phases at this time.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add the last two paragraphs of this statement. I do this now chiefly because of the development in the house this afternoon concerning the reported restriction by the United States on imports of crude oil from Canada which, may I say, will very obviously affect the employment level in western Canada immediately. This would be the result should there be any reduction by the United States of oil imports from this nation.

This is the balance of the 1950 statement:

From the viewpoint of both nations and the world—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thought I had indicated clearly to the hon. member that I was prepared to extend some leniency to him when he quoted from his statement. I hope, however, that he will now relate his remarks to the unemployment situation.

Mr. Nickle: Mr. Speaker, in addition to discussing past developments of some industries in Canada, in the matter of employment or lack of employment, I think it

is also obvious that any suggestion that would create new employment in Canada logically becomes part of this debate.

I now proceed to get on with the main part of this quotation, and read the last two paragraphs of this statement of 1950.

From the viewpoint of both nations and the world, there is—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Surely the hon. member must realize I do not want to go any further in the matter, but I have indicated as clearly as I can that perhaps he should proceed to deal with another part of his subject.

Mr. Nickle: Mr. Speaker, all I am attempting to do is refer to the problem of oil and gas development and the matter of employment in that and associated industries, and to relate it to the problem of national security in this country. This is an industry which is directly related to the problem of employment. If it is your wish, sir, that I do not read directly from the 1950 statement then I shall try to paraphrase or summarize what I had to say then.

An hon. Member: Who wrote it for you the first time?

Mr. Nickle: I do all my own speech writing.

Mr. Hees: We have not any deputy ministers to write our speeches.

Mr. Nickle: To continue:

From the viewpoint of both nations and the world, there is another vastly important fact which cannot be ignored. Adequate deliveries of oil and gas to points of need, vital as they are in peacetime, can determine victory or defeat, life or death, in time of war. Tremendous amounts of time, money and effort are required to explore for and develop oil and gas reserves, and to provide the means of transporting and processing them to give products of usable form where needed. The task can best be done in peacetime, not when an emergency is at hand.

The security of North America, the ultimate outcome of the world struggle between democracy and communism, will in part be shaped by the attitude of Canadians and Americans towards utilizing of the continent's oil and gas reserves.

I now come to the question brought before the house today, the problem of whether or not the United States is now going to curtail imports of oil from Canada which, of course, will very directly and immediately affect the level of employment in western Canada. Let me say at once that some of the reports which have circulated concerning the statement by Mr. Brewster Jennings, president of Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, may have been misleading. I think the Minister of Trade and Commerce today put the statement of Mr. Jennings in correct perspective when he indicated that this was not going to mean a reduction in imports of Canadian