

Petroleum Administration Act

strategies and their Orwellian concept and expose Canadians to the truth about energy prices, about revenue-sharing, and about regional distortions.

Western Canadians are quite ready to share with their fellow Canadians. Their commitment to this country is every bit as strong as that of anyone else, but they are not prepared to be lied to and stolen from. As long as the approach of the federal government continues to be lies and theft, I am afraid we will see a continuing growth of that very ugly mood which exists in the west today. It will be a cancerous type of growth which may eventually destroy its host.

I plead with hon. members opposite who have consciences to think about that for a while. I do not have access to their caucus, but I ask them for goodness sake not to tolerate being abused and misused. They should not tolerate receiving false information. They should demand honesty and integrity from their government, and perhaps the country will survive.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I wish to give the Chair and the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) notice that I wish to reserve my right to raise a question of privilege in this House after I have read in *Hansard* the reference in the hon. member's speech to McCarthy and other remarks with reference to me. I just want to put that on the record.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had to make a very difficult decision not to provide a permit to the Stratford Board of Governors to allow an artistic director to come into Canada on the ground that I felt the board should engage in a more extensive search for a Canadian who could provide the kind of dramatic qualities of leadership required by that institution. After listening to and watching the previous speaker and taking into account the theatrics and histrionics we have observed, I feel that I have found a very likely candidate for that position.

Mr. Andre: Did that take you half an hour.

Mr. Axworthy: The only problem is that if the hon. member were hired as the artistic director, the entire season would be full of farce and comedy, and we would not have any other types of presentations. I would be more than happy to recommend the hon. member for an alternative occupation and employment. I know that he is busily doing that for his leader. I do not want too many Tories unemployed come February, so we will simply leave the hon. member in his present occupation, which he very honourably and nobly espouses, as the evangelist for the oil industry. Perhaps we could call him the parson for the petroleum companies, or the minister for the multinationals.

The hon. member opposite has obviously wound himself into a religious fervor, and unfortunately he exhibits the worst signs of people who get themselves involved in that kind of obsession. They become narrow-minded and unable to see the truth and where it really lies.

There is a play called "The Rainmaker". It is a story about an evangelical preacher down in the United States. It is said of him that he is so busy being right that he forgets what is good. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if there is any comment on or description of the debate we have heard from hon. members opposite in the Conservative party, we can certainly say that they are so busy being righteous that they forget what is good for Canada; they are so busy taking a stand on these kinds of rigid, narrow-minded arguments that they forget what we should be doing to try to plan for the future of this country in the decade ahead.

● (2040)

If you distil the arguments, if you clear away all the insults, character assassination, bombast and rhetoric, you come down to two simple propositions put forward by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre), which is simply that the consumer should pay much higher prices and that the revenue should go to the provinces.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is not what he said at all, Lloyd. You were asleep again.

Mr. Axworthy: He simply said that the beneficiaries of an energy policy should be the provincial governments and their treasuries, and that the people who should pay those prices are the consumers. Basically, that is what the Tory energy policy is all about.

As the hon. member went through his litany of historical events he reminded me of the same person who wrote that new history book that the province of Alberta has just produced, which somehow avoids mention of our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) as being the Prime Minister of this country. Somehow they find a selective filter through which they pass their ideology.

The hon. member forgets some facts of history, such as the OPEC countries which have been raising prices at astronomical, exponential rates since 1973. That did not come out in his account of history, Mr. Speaker. We did not hear about increases going from 10 per cent to 100 per cent, to 1,000 per cent, and to 2,000 per cent over the past five or six years. It seems that somehow all the energy problems were caused by the Liberal party and we were the authors of these horrible crises in the energy field. Somehow he forgot there is a world out there and that people were raising prices according to what their own position in the monopoly market would allow them to do. Well, he has lots of guts, that boy. He can really stand up to the heat. That really shows exactly why the Conservative party is over there and why we are here.

The fact of the matter is that Canadians do want a consistent energy policy which balances the interests of all Canadians, not just those who are in the oil patch in Calgary, but those who sit in the board rooms of Bay Street. They want an energy policy that is fair and equitable and that serves all individuals according to need and according to a fair proportion.