

minute, too late mad scramble to make up for their deficiencies and to cover their inefficiencies, ineptitude and negligence in Prime Ministerial rhetoric. It is the usual mad scramble, the usual badge of this government. It is a course of action that we in this House have learned is fraught with futility. This fact has also been learned by the people of Canada.

The Liberal party has governed this country since 1963, a period of 10 years. The Prime Minister has been in office since 1968. Our party warned the government and the country that, as a result of the six day war and the uncertainties which it brought about, our country could not expect that forever we could have a sure supply of petroleum from the Middle East, so we ought to consider building a pipeline. Even the government's policy papers tabled last summer in the House of Commons, the so-called first energy policy which was nothing more than a discussion of various problems, pointed to why the pipeline ought not to be built. Now, today, faced with a crisis, really a crisis of leadership, abandonment of responsibility and the results of neglect, we suddenly have been talking about a pipeline, but as far as this government is concerned it is a rhetorical pipeline. The fixed objective of a national policy must be that of an assured oil supply for all of Canada. We can only have that assurance if the source of supply is Canadian.

The Progressive Conservative party believes that it is within the competence of a national policy to provide that assured supply and at a reasonable price. The Canadian objective should be self-sufficiency. Indeed the Canadian opportunity over the course of the coming decade will be self-sufficiency, not because this government acted but because this government will be horsed out of office and replaced by a government that is prepared to act.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: I can understand the noise from the other side. I am glad they are awake. It is the first time since last week. I must say to you, Mr. Speaker, that that great objective of self-sufficiency is not a remote goal but one well within our grasp. The barrier between us and the attainment of that objective, the only obvious barrier, is the long-standing and continued, neglect of duty by the Trudeau government.

We are fortunate in Canada because we live in an area where we do, in fact, have self-sufficiency in terms of the amount of crude oil that we produce. I want to state that we reached this state of development only as a result of the 1961 national oil policy implemented by the government of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). That was the most significant step taken in relation to petroleum resources development in Canada. It allowed us to develop our resources. It allowed them to develop to state that they are today. I want to point out as well that since 1969 our party has been on record in support of extending the interprovincial pipeline from Ontario into Quebec. We advocated that policy not only in the interest of expanded national self-sufficiency, but because we saw in 1969 a prospect of curtailed off-shore supply from the Middle East.

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I put it to you quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that had the Progressive Conservative party the responsibility of government at that time, that pipeline would be in place today. The fact that it is not in place today is a monument to the neglect, ineptitude and the failure of initiative of this government. This, perhaps more than any other reason in this current debate, is why this government does not deserve to govern, and is not fit to govern. It ought not to be given the powers it asks for in this bill in its present form.

Now we have the Prime Minister supporting the extension of the pipeline to Montreal. What a change. He was against it in 1969. He was against it in 1970. He was against it in 1971. He was against it in 1972. He was against it even in the spring of 1973. Then, he did his usual flipflop. Now, we find him making speeches about it, telling about what a wonderful idea it is. Well, Mr. Speaker, most Canadians are not going to be fooled by that kind of nonsense. In terms of energy, this government and this Prime Minister have been like a weather vane affected by every wind that blows, not consistent as to the direction in which it would point itself. The biggest wind that affected it not too long ago was the wind from the party to my left.

Regrettable as it is for all Canadians, Mr. Speaker, the government's record of neglect in the field of Canadian self-sufficiency and in the field of security of supply for Canadians, is another example of how the Trudeau government has not come to grips with reality and has not acted. Let there be no mistake about it. We have seen nothing that indicates that our warning in 1969 was wrong then or is wrong now. In fact, events have confirmed the correctness of our view at that time. We say to his government, do not wait until 1975 but do something about building the pipeline now.

As a result of the neglect of this situation there are many Canadians in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and perhaps in other parts of Canada who are going to suffer this winter by reason of additional costs. Eastern Canadians and others in this country are beginning to understand how barren of action and decision are the words of the Prime Minister. As a result of the neglect, many Canadians in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and perhaps other parts of Canada are going to suffer this year. We have advocated a shelter grant system for the consumers of home heating oil because they are the ones who need the protection and assistance in a market that is rising.

There can be no doubt that because of various factors, not the least of which is the neglect of the government in terms of petroleum, there are going to be price increases to Canadians over the year. It is our view that these price increases ought to be staged. It is the hallmark of our policy with respect to oil that Canadians ought not to have to pay the world price for petroleum products. It is also the hallmark of our policy that there ought not to be two Canadas with respect to the price of petroleum products. Our party believes in a one-price system for Canada. The announcement by the Prime Minister in this debate a few days ago creates two Canadas in terms of price, creates a division in the country which has been overlooked by the Liberal members from Quebec and the Atlantic provinces who, by sitting in their places and say nothing, who by defending the government like the ciphers they are, have