The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) proposes that the Yukon itself be considered for provincehood within five years of a Conservative government taking office. This would affect approximately 20,000 people, the present population, which might grow slightly higher. It would mean that they would have total control of the natural resources of that territory. These are the Conservative Party positions on two major basic issues facing Canada. I submit that the policy they are suggesting would lead to what I referred to earlier as the setting up of practically semi-autonomous regions in Canada.

I would urge the Canadian public to appreciate once and for all what its choice is here. The choice is between a policy of a government which recognizes the natural resources and their development in the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon Territory, offshore and elsewhere in Canada, through Canadian government-financed projects, as being a common heritage of the people of Canada, and the policy of the official opposition which apparently does not consider these basic issues for the people of Canada as important. This is the major reason their motion tonight should not be supported by any party in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At 6.05 p.m. the House took recess.

———

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in this important debate that is taking place in this chamber today. One interesting question that has already arisen is, why in the world is there such an argument between the members of the Liberal Party and the members of the NDP as to who is responsible for the energy policy that has been brought forward? I would have thought that both parties would be disclaiming any ownership to it whatsoever, because surely no one would want to lay claim to this mish-mash of ideas that has been suggested as a coherent policy, this rehashing of ideas that we have heard so often in the past.

The people of Canada must really be wondering tonight, as they listen to this debate, whether or not they are living on the same planet as all other countries of the world. Surely the Canadian people cannot believe that, in light of what has happened in the world since the Arab-Israeli war, since the Arabs have decided to put an embargo on the export of oil, this government is bringing in an energy policy which centres around the fact that we should be extending a pipeline to Quebec, something that has been advocated by the Progressive Conservative Party for at least four years.

We are discussing the pricing of petroleum products in this country, something we would do in the normal course of events. We are concerned about the way we get our resources out of northern Canada, something that any government of Canada should always be interested in. And we are discussing more Canadian ownership of our

Energy

resources, which clearly should be the platform of any party and part of its ongoing decision-making. Obviously, any parliament could be discussing these types of thing, at any time.

Certainly, the people of Canada must be wondering what the government is thinking about in terms of the situation that has developed in the past few months, because every country in the world is considering its energy policy in relationship to the changes that have taken place in the last quarter of the year, rather than being concerned about a rehash of ideas which were advanced several years ago and which one would think would come forward in the normal course of events. One wonders whether or not the government is actually aware of the nature of the energy crisis which the world and indeed Canada is facing at present.

One may wonder why the government has not come to grips with these issues in which all Canadians have been interested. But one cannot excuse the government with regard to the current energy problem for compartmentalizing the energy problem and not analysing it along with other problems that Canada is facing today. Surely we must be the only country in the world where the government is talking about the energy policy independent of the economic policy that the government is following.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillies: No other country in the world is considering the energy question independently of what its effect may be on the economy. When the people of Canada today hear about the energy debate in Canada, hear discussions on energy questions, surely they expect much more than a discussion about whether or not we should have a pipeline to Montreal, whether we should bring our resources from the north and what our pricing policy should be. Surely what every Canadian citizen is wondering about tonight is what is the impact of the energy situation in the world on Canada, and what will happen to Canada as a result of this situation. This is the question the government must answer.

It is inconceivable to me that a government can be faced with the issues that are raised by the change in the energy situation in the world and not have one responsible minister make a statement as to what the impact of this change on the economy of Canada will be. This is what people want to know. This is what they are concerned about. Does the fact that there is an energy crisis in the world today have any impact on the Canadian economy? Does it not make any difference to Canada? And if it does not, why does the government not say so? To discuss energy the way it has been discussed so far by the Government is totally irresponsible.

We have tried to find out from this government what their ideas are and what their analysis suggests the effect of the energy crisis on Canada will be. What have we found out? Very little. We find that not until November 20 did the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce even care enough about the energy situation to ask industries across Canada what the impact of the change in the energy situation may be so far as Canadian industrialists are concerned. Not until that late did they attempt to find