

kindly soul that he is, speaking on behalf of Canadians and looking after our best interests, so to speak. As reported in the record of the House of Commons for the fall of 1979, he said:

In our view, exports of natural gas to the United States should be authorized only on the basis of, first of all, an ironclad commitment regarding the building of the whole Alaska gas pipeline. Everything has to be signed, sealed and delivered, particularly the financing guarantees, before we start exporting one cubic foot of gas out of this country to the United States.

Well, we have the phony Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the phony Minister of Finance, and now we have this kindly gent who poses as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and tries to tell us that, all of a sudden, as if by some magical means, a new light has dawned and he sees a new truth. Now he is really speaking on behalf of the Liberal party and in the best interests of Canadians. What kind of nonsense is this? What kind of nonsense are we faced with? We are faced with a bankrupt political party which sells out the country, a political party which turns around and allows development to take place which in fact will cause untold hardship in years to come. We are faced with a political party which does not protect the interests of Canadians, a political party which says one thing that suits it one day and an entirely different thing another day.

An hon. Member: And your party supported them last December.

Mr. Deans: It does not even marginally alter its position, but it changes 180 degrees every time. One has to wonder about this political party; in office and out of office they are a very strange bunch.

Not only did they say those things while they debated in the House of Commons, not only did they put these positions forward in an attempt to embarrass the easily embarrassed Conservative party, but then they went out on to the hustings and told Canadians that they would put in place an energy policy which would work in the best interests of Canadians.

On January 25, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) spoke in Halifax, he said quite clearly that the Liberal party would put in place an energy policy that met all the requirements which guaranteed Canadians access to their resources, which would make available to Canadians the energy resources they needed at a price they could afford, that we would see the kind of energy policy coming from them, if they were re-elected, which would satisfy the needs of Canada now and into the future. For example, they said that there would be a natural gas pipeline to ensure access by all Canadians to their resources. The Liberals would take immediate action to begin negotiations for the construction of a natural gas pipeline to Quebec City and the maritimes. Initially it would carry natural gas east, but when the maritime supplies were ready, the pipeline would be like a natural gas railroad with a return delivery facility as well.

An hon. Member: Double tracking.

Mr. Deans: Perhaps he was talking about double tracking. He went on to say that the Liberals would ensure that

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Canada's energy sector became more Canadian-owned and controlled. Also he said that industry would be developed close to energy sources, so that producing areas in the west and elsewhere would have first chance at processing the resources. Where will it be developed? Will it be in the southern United States? Is that the government's policy? The Liberal party was stumping around the country trying to gain support during the last election campaign. When the Conservative party approved of 3.75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas being sold to the United States, on January 9 the Prime Minister, who was then leader of the opposition, said:

By just approving that export without conditions, it lost another great chance for our industrial development.

He was referring to the Conservative government. Hon. members are bound to ask themselves: What is it about this political party? What are the people supposed to believe about this political party? This Liberal party, when out of office, says anything it can to get into office and when it is in office, does anything it can to get rid of the resources of Canada. I had a colleague in the legislature and he sometimes used a phrase which I shall repeat—no doubt members have heard it before. He used to say that putting the Liberals in charge of resources was like putting Dracula in charge of a blood bank.

● (2030)

There are problems attached to the course the government is about to embark upon and there are risks which Liberal supporters have failed to recognize. I watched with a sick feeling as Liberals leaped to support the minister of energy as he made his statement the other evening. I watched as they euphorically applauded the sell-out of our resources, the building of the pipeline from resources we are going to need, to provide for the greed of the United States. I watched it happening. I said to myself: surely they do not understand the position; surely they do not have the evidence before them; they cannot know what it is all about or they must be very easily led. Accordingly, I thought I would put on record tonight some of the reasons for which I believe that this proposal is bad for Canada now and will be bad for the nation in the future.

To begin with, it has been said that the rate at which natural gas is being discovered, not only here in Canada but in the lower 48 states and in the Gulf of Mexico, makes it quite possible, if not quite probable, that given the high cost of bringing gas from Alaska to the market the project will not be pursued—that at some point in time there will be more readily-available and cheaper gas for exploitation by the United States, not only in that country but here, where they are getting access to our supplies of natural gas. So there is no reason for them to spend many billions of dollars pursuing an expensive source of energy after we have given them free access, as it were, to cheaper energy sources.

In addition, there is no question that once we have committed ourselves to the pre-build, Canadians will have to finance the entire operation by continuing to export the natural gas which belongs to us for far beyond the short term envisaged by