

moving the adjournment motion was this: we wanted to find out what are the government's plans and what action the government proposes to take.

It is useless, at this late date, belabouring the government because we may face an oil crisis this winter. I have done my fair share of that. I have pointed out that had the government entered into some long-term planning, and had it constructed the pipeline to Montreal, it might have averted much of the difficulty which we might face this coming winter. Scolding will not solve the problem. Finding fault with the government will not recover the years that the locusts have eaten. What we must do now is try to work together to meet a national crisis.

I think it would be far better if the government were to take the people of Canada into its confidence and tell them frankly what the situation is likely to be, how much oil we will be able to import, what are the parameters of the problem, what is the most oil we can expect to have and what is the least that we can expect. In that way we could make our plans on the basis that we may face a shortage and the government could say how it proposes to meet that situation if and when it arises. I think if the government and parliament are prepared to give leadership to the Canadian people, the Canadian people will respond, as they always have, to any challenge and they will meet the national crisis.

There are a number of things on which the government should speak out and with respect to which it can tell us its plans. This afternoon I asked the minister what is the anticipated shortfall between the 900,000 barrels a day we need in eastern Canada and the quantity that is anticipated we shall be able to procure from oil producing countries. That ought to be known. I cannot believe that the department is not capable of making assessments as to how much oil we are likely to have. We know how much oil we will need. Further, I think the government ought to tell us, either tonight or as soon as possible, what are the alternate sources from which it hopes to secure oil.

Four oil companies are now moving some 53,000 barrels a day of western crude down the St. Lawrence Seaway. That will help. Has the government any plans for increasing the amount of oil which we can move down the St. Lawrence Seaway? Of course, that will be only a temporary measure until the freeze. What other measures has it in mind? If it is not too late, are steps being taken to give tax considerations to those who are willing to put up storage facilities, as was suggested this afternoon, in order that we may store a larger quantity of oil in the eastern areas?

Further, I think we should know the extent to which the government is actively pursuing the possibility of getting oil directly from the state-owned oil company of Venezuela. The minister himself pointed out that although Exxon will control the field until 1983, the Venezuelan government can take its royalties in kind. If in Canada we set up a national marketing mechanism it might be possible to get supplies of oil from the state-owned oil corporation of Venezuela. If we are to do that, we must move fast. Every industrial country in the world is looking for oil. We ought to know from the minister what success he is having in pursuing this matter.

### *Oil and Gas*

We ought to know what attempts are being made to secure oil from African countries such as Libya and Nigeria. We get about 21 per cent of our oil from the latter country. These countries have been entering into bilateral arrangements with other countries such as Japan and West Germany. That is the policy they have been following. Has the government any hope of obtaining additional oil from those areas? It seems to me that the government should be looking into such matters, instead of just going from day to day in the hope that the problem will go away.

Second, I have suggested in the motion that we ought to begin appealing to the Canadian people to do whatever things that will help to reduce the consumption of oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels. The provincial governments, municipalities, public organizations of all kinds, service clubs, community organizations and many other groups would all rally behind an appeal if the government were prepared to spell out ways and means by which we could reduce the consumption of oil and natural gas this winter.

We also suggest in our motion that the government should tell us today, or fairly soon, what it proposes to do if the situation becomes so serious that there is insufficient oil to meet the normal demands of eastern Canada. None of us wants to see oil rationing, but if oil rationing becomes necessary we do not want to see oil rationed by the pocketbook: we do not want to see gasoline going only to people who can afford to pay \$1 or \$1.50 per gallon. If we do face such a serious situation in eastern Canada, then I submit supplies ought to be allocated on the basis of priorities so that we can meet the needs of those who require fuel. I am speaking of hospitals and other necessary institutions, of home heating fuel and of those groups which have a legitimate demand on this country's limited reserves.

● (2020)

I hope the government will be able to tell us tonight what steps it is energetically pursuing to meet a possible crisis. If the crisis does not arise and if there is no shortage this winter, all of us will be extremely happy.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I bet you will be disappointed.

**Mr. Douglas:** If we plan for the worst and it does not happen, we will have lost nothing except a little thought and a few plans. However, if we fail to plan for the worst possible contingency, this country will be in serious trouble and the people of Canada will not forgive either the government or this parliament.

The government should tell us tonight what steps it is taking to carry on negotiations with the Arab states; what diplomatic activity is going on to ensure that if possible we will continue to get supplies from the Middle East; what steps it is taking with Exxon, or Exxon and the United States, to ensure that oil from Venezuela will not be diverted from Canada to meet American needs this winter; and what steps it is taking to enter into possible bilateral negotiations with Venezuela, Libya, Nigeria or any other country which has state-owned marketing organizations which are prepared to supply us with oil.

We in this party have been urging the minister for a long time to set up a national petroleum corporation for