

S.O. 21

[English]

ENERGY

SUPPORT FOR HEAVY OIL UPGRADER PROJECT

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, current events in the Middle East—particularly the Libya-United States confrontation—sharply remind us again of the vulnerability of the Canadian oil and gas industry to events beyond our control.

The Oil and Gas Journal estimates that Middle East supplies of conventional oil will last 95 years while known inventories, in the North Sea will last only 19 years, 13 years in Canada, and 9 years in the United States. This will make us prisoners of other countries' resources and frankly, I for one do not wish to be anyone's prisoner, ever, let alone in 13 years.

Therefore, as an instrument of national policy, the Government must immediately take a decision in support of the Husky heavy oil upgrader and tar sands projects in western Canada. As well, it must push ahead vigorously in the development of new hydrocarbon sources in order to ensure an acceptable degree of Canadian self-sufficiency in this vital resource industry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

TIMETABLE FOR ELIMINATING LEAD FROM GASOLINE

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in order to protect human health, particularly that of children, industry in the United States has been directed to remove lead from gasoline by January, 1988. In Canada, however, we are phasing out lead between now and 1992. The Government should adopt the same timetable so that Canadians can draw the same health benefits.

In Canada the coming into effect of 29 milligrams in 1987 was announced before, in December, 1983. Consequently, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) is trying to create the impression of giving leadership when, in reality, he is denying Canadians health benefits that are available in the United States as a result of their stringent timetable.

If the Environmental Protection Agency can impose a stringent timetable on U.S. industry, why can the Minister of the Environment not impose the same timetable on Canadian industry?

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CANADA COUNCIL

MINISTER'S ACTIONS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing yet another manoeuvre on the part of the

Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) to control the Canada Council.

Canadians will remember his numerous attempts last year to amputate the arm's length relationship between the Government and independent cultural agencies. The Minister now appears to be wielding a knife instead of a hatchet, but the results may be no less harmful. He is threatening to deny the Canada Council the \$10 million boost to its funding promised in the Budget. It seems that unless the Council accepts his dictates on how the money is spent, the funds may be diverted to another Department.

Happily, the Council is so far resisting this coercion and is asserting its right to autonomy. However, we saw its vulnerability to this kind of pressure last fall when it bowed to the Minister's demand to bail out the Vancouver Symphony.

The arm's length principle is essential to the operation of our cultural agencies. The Minister should not be directing funds within an agency's budget to one function or another, any more than he should be telling writers what to say or musicians what key in which to play.

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● (1410)

CANADA POST CORPORATION

DISTRIBUTION OF EROTIC VIDEO FLYER

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, a mail order flyer advertising the highest quality triple "X" erotic video movies is being distributed through the marketing division of Canada Post. The flyer promotes an "exclusive video offer" and is marked "for mature viewers only", almost an open invitation to our younger people to seize, open, and run with it.

Letter carriers have doubts about making the delivery of these materials, but senior officials took the position that it was not up to the Post Office to play censor. I do not think it is part of the Post Office's mandate to make it easy for others to send us down the road of moral decay and decadence. It is not first-class mail we are talking about. It is unsolicited pornographic literature, indiscriminately distributed as householder mail. It should be stopped now by the Minister responsible for Canada Post.

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YOUTH

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. John Gormley (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, most of us remember our formative student years of summer employment. We often worked in small businesses gaining experience in life and business. With this in mind, I was very disappointed to hear the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) say that our Government's Summer Employment Experience Development Program should not be