

Energy

minister in a Canadian government who has gone to sleep right in the centre place of his importance. That is the place where he sits. All right then. I will refer to *Hansard* as my authority. As reported at page 4488 of *Hansard* for April 13 the minister said:

As hon. members will agree, the government has taken several important and very necessary steps to encourage expansion of non-conventional oil production.

We do not agree, Mr. Speaker. The government has not. But the minister went on to say:

However, the government cannot do everything.

That is right. They cannot do anything. The minister should have gone a little further. He should have said "However, the federal government cannot do anything". And in that we would have agreed with him. It certainly cannot do everything. Then the minister went on to say:

Alberta has already acted to provide heavy oil producers with alternative royalty incentives.

He said "Alberta has acted". Then we see what the minister's policy is. The minister says:

It is my hope that Alberta and Saskatchewan will announce in the very near future measures they are prepared to take so that the total fiscal regime, including income tax and royalties, will lead without doubt to commercial development of these massive oil reserves in western Canada.

The minister is waiting for somebody else to act. No wonder we are in such slack shape in Canada in energy. No wonder we are importing 400,000 barrels a day. No wonder our prospects are dim and dubious for 1985, because the minister is waiting for Alberta to act. Who is the national government? Is it Alberta or is it this government here in Ottawa? I have the impression that it is the government here in Ottawa, the national government. Alberta has to look after Albertans. The Alberta government looks after Alberta. The national government looks after the nation. Who should make the move? Who should be getting this thing going? Who should be seeing that the tar sands are developed? Alberta does not need any oil from the tar sands. They do not need any "gas" from the minister. Alberta has got enough conventional oil and conventional gas. They do not need the tar sands. They do not need the expensive stuff. It is Canada that needs it. It is Canada that needs the tar sands oil. It is Canada that needs the gas.

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It is Canada that should be giving the incentive. Why should Alberta and Saskatchewan have to give the incentive? It is us Canadians, all of us, who need it. It is the nation. It is the national government that is responsible for not getting that project under way. It is a national disgrace. The minister's salary should be dropped to \$1. The minister's salary should be withdrawn for the last five years because of the ineffectiveness of what he has done.

The minister went on further at page 4488. The member for Edmonton, our whip, asked a question, and the minister said this. I am just quoting from *Hansard*; I do not want to offend the rules.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, but we are now waiting to hear from the provincial governments as to what royalty changes they are prepared to make.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

Now, Mr. Speaker, here is Canada, you know, with the old seat out of the pants as far as oil is concerned, no longer self-sufficient, no longer self-reliant, having to import 400,000 barrels a day, a huge deficit on current account and the balance of payments. Everywhere you look, grim disaster stares us in the face. As long as we have got this government, the only ray of hope is that the election is about to come if the Prime Minister can screw up his courage and call it this week. He was afraid last week. He would not call it for the 12th. Will he screw up his courage and call it for the 19th or the 26th or the 12th? We do not care when he calls it, but call it. Or is he going to leave it until next year, or is he not going to have an election because of the big national emergency, the emergency being the disastrous state he has got the country in so that we should not have an election at all?

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister is waiting for Alberta and Saskatchewan. The tar sands are in Alberta. The nation needs the oil, and the minister should be sitting down with Shell Canada Limited and the Alberta government and solving this tomorrow. He should have solved it a year ago, and if Alberta will go no further and the private entrepreneurs need more incentive, the minister should give it to them. That he has not should be the topic. I wish I could introduce a motion of non-confidence here tonight. I did not think of it until I got to my feet here, but the more I am talking, the more convinced I am that we must get this minister gone, gone, gone before too long.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, for a third oil sands mining plant at Athabasca, for that to go ahead, they have got to have room. They know they have got to pay taxes and royalties, but what they want is an appropriate fiscal and royalty environment that will support the risk taker, as they say, in the early years. Now, the risk taker, for those opposite who do not understand that, is the one that puts the money in and takes the risk of losing it. The government is not going to be involved in this. There is no direct involvement of government. So what they want is a kind of fiscal regime which supports them in the early years when they are taking all the risks and generates revenue for the government later when the venture generates profits. That sounds reasonable.

Here we have the Great Canadian Oil Sands, who were unlucky. They started early. They were the pioneers, and the reward they got for that was to be ignored by the government. Now we have got Syncrude that had to stop and could not go any further unless governments lashed in the money. Now we have got Shell who are going to put the money up themselves with their partners, but they want some assurance that while they are taking all the risks on this huge investment, \$3 billion, in the early years, they are not going to be taxed then but will be taxed later when they are generating profits.

It is not the government of Alberta that we are waiting for to do anything, Mr. Speaker. The government of Alberta has its own problems, it has its own priorities, it has its own oil and gas. It is lucky. Theirs is under the land. Newfoundland has