

Mr. Douglas: My hon. friend asks "And what is that?" It ought to be the present price subject to an adjustment that the oil industry can prove reflects increases in cost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Twaits of Imperial Oil, when interviewed by the press, admitted they could not justify an increase on the basis of cost. He said they wanted the increase because it reflected the world price structure. We do not want the Canadian people living under an international monopolistic price structure; we should arrange to establish our own price structure.

I see that my time is almost up. May I close with one sentence. I say to the minister, and through him to all his colleagues including the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), I urge most strongly that the government make a statement within the next day or two telling us what the price structure will be when the present freeze ends, because upon that decision by the government will depend the attitude the NDP will take in respect of this bill and the whole energy policy of the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yewchuk: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member can only ask a question with unanimous consent as the hon. member's time has just expired. Does the House give its consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Yewchuk: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members. The hon. member who just spoke made a great deal about his support for price controls. I wonder if he could tell us why he and his leader nearly broke their necks running around the country saying that price controls would not work?

An hon. Member: Selective price controls.

Mr. Yewchuk: I think that we cannot have a member of this House talking out of both sides of his mouth at the same time. We want to know where he stands and whether he is or is not in favour of controls.

Mr. Douglas: If the hon. member will read the speeches that have been made by the leader of this party and by myself, both inside and outside the House, and I would be very glad to send him copies of radio speeches and the motions I have moved, he will see that we always were in favour of selective controls; but they would have to be permanent or stay in effect for a considerable period of time. We are not going to be led down any garden path by some phony talk about a 90-day freeze that will only postpone the situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: We want to be honest with the Canadian people and tell them that we cannot freeze the prices of imported goods. In respect of coffee, bauxite, citrus fruits and other things the price is set in the countries which

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produce them, but in respect of our products in Canada which cross provincial boundaries we can have selective controls. We cannot have price controls on products produced and sold within provinces, but we ought to have selective controls on those products that cross provincial boundaries. If the Conservative party believes so much in controls, it had a good many years in office when it could have put them into effect.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Any more questions from Athabasca?

An hon. Member: Do you want to freeze doctors' incomes too, Paul?

● (1710)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, the House is now considering Bill C-236 which provides, as a result of an alleged oil crisis, the establishment of a control agency for energy resources rather than oil.

At the beginning of the discussions the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) stated that there was a shortage of oil in Canada. Later, he tried to withdraw from his position when he maintained that there was no shortage of oil, but no means to carry oil in eastern Canada. Again today he has just confirmed that there is effectively no oil crisis in Canada, but administration problems. Why are the people still being misled since once again, on the basis of an in-existent crisis, the establishment of a control agency has just been suggested.

In our view it is necessary to establish an assessment agency. What are the requirements of the Canadian people, what are the available resources in Canada? An assessment agency could determine it clearly on a 25-year basis. Therefore, every year, after a review of figures and data, we might have the most accurate knowledge of resources, production and requirements of Canadians. On this basis of agreement, balanced by this agency, we might guarantee that products will be available for Canadians and that they will be distributed to meet their needs.

Thus, indirectly, instead of ensuring the Canadian people that their needs will be met, they simply want to control both production and distribution and, at the same time, the needs of individuals. They want to control them as they have done for a few months, strengthening restraints and giving themselves the right to tell Canadians at a given time: We have energy, but try to do without it because we have not been clever enough to develop the means to take this energy and distribute it according to requirements.

But today, this bill is designed to establish a mandatory allocation program in four regions. This program is to apply specifically to petroleum products because once more it is under the pretence of an oil crisis that they interfere in the energy capacity of Canada as a whole. The kinds of petroleum products are specified—it is suggested to set up a list of priorities—to provide for the systematic allocation of products and to see what controls are proposed by the government.