

Energy

Liberal and prices would stay down. Fifteen months later price increases are hitting the magic figure of 60 cents a gallon. Canadians trusted hon. members opposite. Canadians believed they would stand by their promises. Canadians took them at their word. So much for trust; Canadians were deceived in January and February of 1980.

Canadians are speaking out today. They are asking members of my party to speak out for them in this House of Commons. At one time they believed the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Canadians recognized that prices would have to be higher. They recognized that there would have to be some price increases, but they believed there would be some offset. They believed there would be some assistance to people who could not afford the increases which might be coming. They took a chance. They trusted, but they were let down.

We are speaking here today for Canadians who are bewildered at the reasons that this blockbuster tax increase was imposed last week. The minister sneaked that increase in. He did not have the courtesy or the courage to explain to this House why it was necessary to increase prices at this time so much more than in a similar situation just three months ago. Last week the price went up nine cents a gallon. That was about three times the increase we faced back in March of this year. We have not heard a proper explanation for this by the minister today.

On June 3 I asked the minister if he would table the internal report substantiating the need for this increase. I received a very evasive answer. The minister did not even address the question, let alone give me an answer. Throughout his speech today I waited to see whether there would be some indication, but all the minister said was that if there is not an increase now, we may experience a larger increase down the road than we had planned for. However, that is not good enough when we are talking about a price increase of nine cents a gallon. He will have to do better than that.

Since the National Energy Program was announced on October 28 of last year, there have been five increases totalling 22 cents a gallon. As I have said, since the beginning of 1980 the price has increased 60 cents a gallon. In a few minutes I will come to what part of that 60 cents has been taken by the federal government in increased taxation, not including revenue to the provinces and not including revenue to the industry for producing oil.

In the last six months we have seen probably the largest single tax grab in the history of this country. This tax grab has been sneaked in through little undebatable motions. The people of this country are coming to realize that this is a shying away from reality on the part of the minister and other members of the government.

I listened to the numbers cited by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I heard him say that in the 1980 election campaign his party had made two basic commitments. I would like to address those two basic commitments right now. The first was that in 1980—and these were the minister's

words—there would be no 18-cent a gallon excise tax. That is correct; there was not. However, he said that the price at the wellhead would be lower than the \$4 we projected. Well, Mr. Speaker, that price at the wellhead was not \$4, it was \$4.40 or \$4.88 depending on where you live. So much for that promise.

● (1640)

Over the four years they said that the energy program would result in a price to consumers lower than that—

Mr. Lalonde: That is nonsense.

Mr. Wilson:—presented by the Conservative party.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is what you said.

Mr. Wilson: Well, he knows about that promise. He cannot stand there in the House and make that promise today because he has broken it already. In his own words he said that the price of gasoline now is about the same as it would have been under the Conservatives.

Mr. Lalonde: It is cheaper.

Mr. Wilson: And that does not include the impact on heating oil, which he never talks about. He is afraid to talk about the increase in the price of heating oil.

Now let us talk about these price increases. My friend the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) summarized the increases but I would like to put it in a somewhat different way. On the wellhead price we have had three increases amounting to \$4, shared between the industry, the provinces and the federal government. There have been six other categories of price increase. The petroleum compensation charge, three increases totalling \$4.55 a barrel. The removal of the Sarnia-Montreal subsidy, 18 cents a barrel. Two increases in the Syncrude levy amounting to 90 cents a barrel, and a special levy amounting to \$2.01 a barrel on two occasions.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is the Lalonde levy.

Mr. Wilson: Yes, that is right. Then the Canadian ownership charge of \$1.15 a barrel on April 23, 1981, as well as an *ad valorem* tax which allows the federal government to participate in every increase to the extent of 9 per cent. The total amount of those increases is \$12.79 a barrel, of which the provinces got 14 per cent, the industry got 14 per cent, and the big, fat federal government got 72 per cent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to show that the federal government's figures do not hold water. The minister is playing with numbers and he knows it. However, I think there are two fundamental facts here, particularly the second one which we are debating today, and I want to focus on that. First, the dishonesty of the government in presenting to the Canadian people their promise in the last election, which has been broken. The deceit and dishonesty in presenting that promise and attempting to win an election on that basis—

Mr. Lalonde: Utter nonsense.