

National Energy Program

implemented by this minister has been a disaster, because it has given false hope and encouragement to a number of Canadian companies to do something more than what they should have been doing. We have increased Canadian ownership, yes, that is correct, the numbers are there; but we have crippled a number of those Canadian companies who took in the words of the minister. They have found now that they are put in such a desperate position that they are unable to compete in this industry. By comparison, the multinationals are much stronger today, relative to the Canadian-owned companies, than they were back in 1980. The minister would have been much better off doing nothing, letting the market forces move their own way.

The minister commented on the fact that we have voted against some of these bills that are implementing Canadianization. He is absolutely right, and I am proud of the fact that we have.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ouellet: He is a true Canadian.

Mr. Wilson: He said he is going to bring the industry back to full health. If he brings the industry back to full health in anything like the methods that he has used in putting the industry in the position it is in today, God help the industry.

Mr. Taylor: It will be in the coffin.

Mr. Wilson: When was the last time the minister walked the streets of Calgary talking to the people who have been affected—

Mr. Clark: Without a guard!

Mr. Wilson: —by the industry that he has damaged so severely? That is the question that the minister should ask: when should he go back to Calgary?

The second element of the energy program was fairness in pricing, fairness in revenue sharing. I look at this program tonight, Madam Speaker, and I see no fairness whatsoever to the consumer. I see high prices, and high taxes to the Government of Canada, continuing as before, some cut-back in the government take but very, very high levels of taxation, and certainly no change in prices. As I said a minute ago, the consumer will be paying 30 per cent of this program.

Let us just look at the fairness to the industry. When we started off on this charade of an energy program in 1980, the minister was concerned because the energy industry had 45 per cent of the revenues. He knocked it down to 36 per cent and said: "That is what we should be doing to bring in a certain degree of fairness." Well, Madam Speaker, you may not have noticed the number in the presentation the minister made tonight. The number that he has brought the industry back to is 46 per cent. What have we been doing for the last year and a half? We went back to where we started as far as it relates to the share of the revenues that the industry has.

Look at what has happened to the industry. It has been decimated by the damage that was done in that intervening period. They will have to use a large part of those revenues to rebuild their financial strength. They will not be able to reinvest those in the development of our energy reserves. The minister should have stayed in bed; he should not have brought in that energy policy a year and a half ago.

An hon. Member: He should not have got out of it.

Mr. Wilson: The final objective of that national energy program of October 1980 was self-sufficiency by 1990. That, as I said earlier, Madam Speaker, is totally a lost cause. It has gone out the window, that objective. The only way, as I said, is if we continue in recession the way we are now and the demand for energy products goes down so severely that we just will no longer need it. But that is not the way that we on this side of the House want to achieve self-sufficiency.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson: The minister has pointed to Hibernia and the Beaufort Sea as the main promising parts of our energy future that will bring about oil self-sufficiency.

Mr. Blenkarn: Alsands.

Mr. Wilson: He never mentioned, not that I heard in his whole speech tonight, he never mentioned the impact of the loss of Alsands and Cold Lake. I refer him back—I do not think he likes to remember this—to the numbers in the energy program itself. It had production of about 1.4 million barrels a day. Of that, 715,000 was from the Alsands and Cold Lake and other synthetic crude projects. Those are gone. He just totally ignored the fact that they are gone. They have disappeared into thin air, and he does not acknowledge the fact that they have had a major impact on the ability of this country to reach self-sufficiency.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: More business for Mexico.

Mr. Wilson: Now, Madam Speaker, the minister has supervised the most damaging national policy that we have seen in our history.

Mr. Blenkarn: Right on!

Mr. Wilson: He has bled the oil and gas industry dry. He has bled the country of well qualified technical people. He has bled the country of valuable capital dollars. From the date that he came into office, we have watched the level of the Canadian dollar go from 87 cents to 80 cents. He has also used this energy policy to bleed consumers through the high taxes that have been used to bring in money to that voracious spender, the Minister of Finance.

That is why this minister must resign, Madam Speaker; and I plead with you, and I plead through you to the minister, not to stop now. This energy policy is still a disaster. It still needs major surgery. Either the minister can face up to this or he should move over and let someone else take over his job.