

events of five or six years ago in that minority parliament, but let me remind hon. members that from where I sat there was a serious question of exactly who was in bed with whom at that time. One way or another it does not matter, but there is no question that two parties were in bed together.

Just a word to the minister. I would love to see him when he appears some Saturday night trying to shove that crap down somebody's throat, because that is nonsense and he knows it. Nobody is arguing against what Petro-Canada has done. However, a reasonable position to take in this country is that private enterprise could do it, and do it just as well.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Forrestall: The socialists over here would nationalize everything at once to acquire the wealth so that it could be redistributed. The socialists over there are just a bit chicken; they cannot quite get themselves out of the socialist bed into which they crawled eight or ten years ago and get back into the mainstream of society. They cannot be electorally honest with themselves.

There was a classic example this afternoon. Of course, the NDP shoved Petro-Canada down the throat of the government. They did not want it. In those days, years ago, there were good Liberals in this country who believed there was a role for the private sector in matters of such great national significance as this. Nobody questions what Petro-Canada is doing. It always amuses me when government takes credit for things other people do. Nobody is arguing against the need to get on with things. There is a difference of opinion as to whether or not a Crown corporation can do it better. I do not happen to believe it can. The corporation might, at the time, have been convenient as a vehicle into which to pump the hundreds of millions of dollars needed into some of these projects. This was necessary and it continues to be necessary, but it is not a question, as government spokesmen would have us believe, of the official opposition arguing against the need to improve the security of our oil supplies, to develop new resources or to preserve and develop our existing resources.

The minister is right again—he is always right, or at least half right—when he says there is not really an oil crisis at this point. The crisis with which we are faced is a management crisis. I need not remind the minister, to take him all the way back to General Eisenhower, of General Eisenhower's role in the dilemma in which we find ourselves. When he cut off our quota system, my right hon. friend from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) embarked on an oil policy which was a very sensible one at the time. It met this country's needs and met them well. It made sense. The beneficial effects of developing and securing a western petroleum base have been clearly demonstrated, and for the minister to suggest otherwise is nonsense. The crisis is one of management, not of supply, though we may well find an oil supply crisis on our hands.

● (1650)

Nobody believes this government and nobody can believe them. They told us that there were no problems, not only with

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regard to oil but with regard to a variety of issues, only to find in subsequent days and months that in fact there is a crisis. The recent oil problem is just an example, albeit a classical one.

The compensation program, which the government House leader had to come and straighten out, of course is needed; nobody is arguing or finding any fault with that proposition. The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert knew and others in intervening years knew that we would have to do something to correct the absence of security of oil resources for eastern Canada. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to attract and develop an industrial base in Atlantic Canada. It is no wonder that people are confused and frustrated with the policies of the government, which on the one hand does something that seems positive, but on the other hand is cutting the very legs out from under the policy with which the right hand is concerned.

Something of which the minister has to be continuously reminded is that there are large industrial users of energy in Atlantic Canada. On the one hand we have DREE doing everything that it can to develop the Atlantic economy, but on the other hand we have high energy costs. For example, 3.9 million kilowatt hours per month costs a Nova Scotian industry \$139,104. In Quebec City the cost is \$66,000, and in Ontario generally it costs \$76,000. In Manitoba the cost is \$71,000, Saskatchewan \$61,000, Alberta \$75,000, B.C. \$58,000, Newfoundland \$99,000, New Brunswick \$101,000, and in Nova Scotia it costs \$140,000. How in the hell can we develop an industrial base if we do not have cheap, accessible, secure energy?

This government says that it is doing everything. Of course, it is doing a lot of things, but why were they not doing those things after eastern Canada had been hit over the head with a sledgehammer in 1973 and 1974? No area in Canada felt the brunt of that Israeli-Arab conflict to the extent that we did in Atlantic Canada. Within months basic prices had quadrupled. God only knows what they are today, but oil landing at Dartmouth is now costing approximately \$17.50 per barrel.

Just so hon. members will be aware why we are concerned, and why we do not like to be told everything is well only to learn in fact that everything is not well, I will explain. Householders in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, for this month—one of the coldest months in Canadian history—will pay over \$60 for 1,000 kilowatt hours. In Halifax they will pay \$48.20, in Fredericton they will pay \$41.14 and in Montreal the cost will be \$26.35. In other cities such as St. Catharines the cost is \$28.95, in Brandon it is \$31, in Saskatoon it is \$28, in Calgary it is \$25 and in Victoria the cost is \$34.

I wonder what those figures mean to the minister? Of course, he is concerned. I know that he is concerned because he had to get the Cape Breton giant to speak to easterners because nobody else believes him. The crisis is in management. Why was the minister not putting in place the remedies for this situation six years ago? There is Petro-Canada but, good God, we have only heard of it in the last 72 hours. It has been