

Energy Policy

Mr. Gillespie: If hon. members would look at the record they would see that the so-called energy expert of the Conservative party, the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), was not present yesterday.

Mr. Crouse: And he said so.

Mr. Gillespie: Nor will they find that any one of the three previous energy critics of the Tory party was present. I ask whether the Canadian people are to believe that the Tory party is really serious about the important energy issues of today.

Mr. Bawden: Tell us how serious you are. Tell us about those northern regulations: that is the biggest road-block we have.

Mr. Gillespie: I listened very carefully to the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). I thought he might want to put on the record his party's position with respect to energy prices, with respect to what they should be and whether oil prices should go up, and by how much. But at no time has his party really come to grips with what is one of the most important energy questions of the day. I suppose in the province of Ontario they would argue for lower prices and that would be popular. In Alberta they probably would be arguing for higher prices because that would be popular. But if as a national party they have a national view, they have kept it to themselves.

I think it is about time the Canadian people heard the views of the Tory party with respect to the present price of oil and what the price of oil should be next July 1, because we will be entering into negotiations very shortly. I think the time has come for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) to make his position clear on that question, and if he disagrees with the position of the government that we should move toward world prices, let him say so because the Canadian people want to hear him. There are other matters upon which the people would like to hear the Conservatives.

Mr. Bawden: Tell us about the regulations which are holding everything up.

Mr. Gillespie: I can only assume from the remarks of the hon. member for St. John's West who made, as I said, an eloquent constituency speech, that he accepts the goal Canada has set, the goal of self-reliance for Canadians and the target of reducing our dependence on foreign oil to one-third by 1985. I assume that because he has not criticized that target. Indeed, I think his words were that "An Energy Strategy for Canada" reads very well. I assume from that remark that he accepts that target and that goal.

Mr. Crosbie: Wait until tomorrow morning.

Mr. Gillespie: If the hon. member had any other views he should have had the courage to put them on the record this afternoon.

Mr. Crosbie: I didn't have enough time.

Mr. Crouse: You wouldn't listen to him. You cut him off.

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member says he did not have enough time, but he had 30 minutes, which was ten minutes more than the time allotted to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. The hon. member also had the floor last night for 20 minutes. He could have said something then, if he had wished to do so. This man has a loud voice. He is on his feet very often. I applaud his gymnastics when trying to be recognized. I hope that by the end of the session they will start to indicate—

Mr. Gilbert: He used to be a Liberal.

Mr. Gillespie:—where the Conservative party stands on the question of heavy oil. Where does the Conservative party stand on the Athabasca tar sands and their development? Where does the Conservative party stand with respect to a pipeline? Where does it stand with respect to conservation? What target would it propose to the Canadian people? Would the Conservative party accept the target we put before the Canadian people? How do the Tories feel about the target we have set for increased exploration and development in frontier areas?

Mr. Bawden: Tell us about that; it is off by 50 per cent.

Mr. Gillespie: I would like to know what targets they would put before the Canadian people and before this House.

Mr. McKenzie: That is your job now; you have your chance.

Mr. Gillespie: It is quite clear from the noise opposite that hon. members opposite are a little worried that *Hansard* will put down the kinds of questions which are being put to them.

Mr. McKenzie: I will be making a constructive speech.

Mr. Douglas (Bruce-Grey): Your first one.

Mr. Gillespie: The lead-off speaker, the mover of the motion, spoke about three things. He spoke about the conservation program for P.E.I. and Nova Scotia; he spoke about the policy with respect to offshore resources and he said something about hydro development in Newfoundland. I would like to deal with those points in my speech, but first I would like to turn to the comments made by the NDP spokesman, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Stanbury: At least we know where he stands.

Mr. Gillespie: He made it very clear where he stands on two issues. He put forward in very clear terms the socialist solution. The socialist solution is that for any increase in oil or natural gas 100 per cent of that increase ought to go to the government. I think he would agree that that is the interpretation any fair-minded person could put on it. If he does not agree, I would like him to clarify.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister would not want to misrepresent my views. I said that apart from what goes to the producing