

on this board. This board will be subject to the direction of the Governor in Council, which means the minister, in everything it does.

An hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Baldwin: The hon. member says "yes". This is what the Liberal party believes in; powers granted to the board which is out in front, but authority which this government can secretly use to obtain its way. That is what we intend to see shall not be granted unless, in fact, there is an adequate case made for doing so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: Hon. members on the opposite side may be conditioned to meekly acquiesce to all this government seeks, but that is not our responsibility, and we are not here to say no as a matter of perversity. We are here to examine and scrutinize, and we will not let this bill pass until we have discharged our responsibility in this regard, no matter what my hon. friends may think we ought to do.

I am not going to take this time to deal with the clauses one by one, and I would probably be out of order if I did, although the minister has done so. Referring to Clauses 1 to 10, there is not the slightest doubt in the world that this board will be subject to the day to day controls, orders and directions of this government and the minister. Let us not delude ourselves on that score. There is no doubt that this is the purpose of the bill as set out in Clauses 1 to 10.

Going on from there, we find the power of delegation. It may well be that in certain circumstances, no matter what the extent of the authority granted, the right to delegate part of that authority will be exercised. The minister did not touch on that and he has not made a case for it. He may make one in the committee, I do not know. But if we are to rely on his statement in this House today we must remember that he has not by one word, one sentence or one argument suggested any reason we should give this power to the government to delegate this authority in any part of the country.

In addition to that, the minister was not silent but not very effusive as to the extent to which the mandatory allocation program can be applied to other products than petroleum products. He used the phrase "mandatory allocation program", but this phrase undoubtedly constitutes a complete, 100 per cent granting of absolute authority to the government to act in any way it wants. There is no question about that, and I do not think the minister will deny it. He can call it a mandatory allocation program, but that is much like calling lying, mendacity, or saying theft is only embezzlement. This is just a choice of words. We in this House want to discuss the extent of the authority the minister wants us to give him under this program.

Alternative fuels can be used, such as electric power.

● (1550)

As has been pointed out, alternative fuels consist of coal, natural gas and many other commodities. Electric power can be used. There is no doubt that this clause, taken in conjunction with the clause which provides for byproducts or derivatives of petroleum products, could cover derivatives or byproducts of alternative fuels and

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that these could be placed under the mandatory allocation program. I am not an industrialist, but I would think that if this provision is taken at its face value the number of commodities which could be covered under a mandatory allocation program of this government could run literally into the thousands, including the very important industrially produced commodities of the petrochemical industry, plastics and fertilizers. There is no indication of the limit to which, in this modern world, this government could go in delivering its ultimatum to administer its so-called mandatory allocation program.

On the question of price, I would point out to the minister and to my hon. friends to my left that some ten months ago the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies), our leader and members of this party, suggested an incomes policy. Had it been put in place at that time, there would not have been any necessity for the inclusion in this bill of the question of price. I say to my friends to the left in good faith that they must accept a very large share of the responsibility for keeping this government in place, thus enabling this government to deal with the question of price. If what the government does with regard to price does not please my hon. friends, let them bear the responsibility for keeping the government here.

I thank my hon. friends for the hallelujah chorus. It is always inspiring to have such intelligent help from the back benches. The right to vary and change contracts has been mentioned by the minister. Later on I will show the extent to which this bill intrudes into provincial rights, but from time immemorial contractual obligations have fallen squarely under the civil rights clause of the constitution. This minister and this government are clearly on record as asking us to move away from a right which does not belong to us by the simple process of bringing this bill into operation. This is something which at the moment is quite unsupported by hon. gentlemen opposite and the minister.

Then, there are the import and export regulations. I shall deal with those later. I shall just mention here, so hon. members can consider it, that the inclusion of the import-export regulations in this bill brings into the open the feud which exists in the cabinet. This is a fact of some significance. As I understand it, not so long ago the cabinet was considering what step it would take in this regard. It was decided to use, for the time being, the Export and Import Permits Act. I intend to deal with that later in more detail. The matter would then have fallen under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie). The very fact that this bill is here today, and the fact that these proposals appear in it, are a certain indication that the minister has won this particular battle. There are several ministers present in the House and since none of them have spoken up, I take it that what I am saying is quite correct, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I wish to deal with what I consider to be a very important and very dangerous clause, clause 15. It is what I think will be known as the blackmail clause or the bludgeon clause, and the bludgeon falls very easily into the hands of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources because he is accustomed to using bludgeons. This clause provides that the board may, with the approval of the Governor in Council—and of course that means the Gov-