

raised between four and five cents a gallon. I want to point out that the burden of this increase will fall upon that part of Canada which can least afford to carry it. That is why we in this party have pleaded for a national petroleum corporation which would be the sole purchaser of imported and domestic oil, so as to pool all oil and equalize prices right across Canada.

● (1750)

When the minister brings down his legislation, I hope he will tell us how he proposes to deal with the particular problem faced by the province of British Columbia. In that province all of the refineries are geared to producing gasoline. The practice over the years has been to send Canadian oil which comes through the Trans Mountain Pipe Line, to the United States for refining and they sell back to British Columbia the diesel fuel, the middle distillates and the bunker fuel.

Recently it has become increasingly difficult to secure these petroleum products. In British Columbia they have gasoline running out of their ears, but they are having difficulty getting middle distillates, diesel fuel, home heating oil and bunker fuel. At this very moment, in my constituency, a ship with bunker oil is being unloaded. This oil is for one of the mills and is made from Canadian oil that has been processed in the United States, and they are paying \$9 a barrel for this bunker oil. Surely this is a matter the minister will have to look into. Otherwise the people on Vancouver Island in particular will be cold this winter because they will not be able to get adequate supplies of home heating fuel.

I agree with the minister when he says we should try allocation of oil supplies at the wholesale level first before resorting to rationing. It is less cumbersome and administratively much easier. If it becomes necessary, of course, we can then look at the situation with respect to rationing. The other set of proposals that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources made related to an appeal to the Canadian people to impose upon themselves voluntary restraints in the consumption of energy. I have no doubt at all that the Canadian people will respond as they always have to a challenge to work together to solve a problem, because it is in our common interest to do so.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Douglas:** While I criticize the government, as I have done repeatedly, for its lack of an oil policy, when we are in the situation in which we find ourselves today it is the duty of every good Canadian to co-operate with the government in trying to reduce discomfort and inconvenience to a minimum. However, the minister is going to have some difficulty telling the people of Ontario, for instance, that they should shut off their Christmas-tree lights when Ontario Hydro has asked for permits from the National Energy Board to increase its export of electricity to the United States by over one-third. What makes the situation even worse, Mr. Speaker, is that while the National Energy Board has approved the application and sent it to the government for ratification, the board in the meantime, I am told, has issued emergency permits. It will be very difficult to tell the Canadian people that they have to

turn off their lights at the same time as we are increasing our electricity exports by more than one-third.

**Mr. Sharp:** What is wrong with selling electricity to the Americans?

**Mr. Douglas:** If I understood the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) correctly, he asked what was wrong with exporting power. I say that it is somewhat illogical to be increasing exports of power by more than one-third at the same time as you are asking the people of the country to turn down the lights. In addition, the minister recommended that we should take the sofa away from the walls and the windows, and also he might have suggested that when young people sit on the sofa they turn the lights out altogether!

It is also going to be difficult to explain to the people who live west of the Ottawa Valley why they should be curtailing their consumption of oil at the same time as we are exporting more than half of our supplies of oil and gas to the United States. I have never suggested that we should cut off our oil supplies to the United States.

**Some hon. Members:** Ah!

**Mr. Douglas:** But I want to remind the government that its stated policy is that we should only export oil that is surplus to our needs, and that the first demand upon Canadian resources is the needs of the Canadian people. I would further remind the government that until a few years ago our American friends restricted our exports of oil to the United States to 300,000 barrels a day. Now we are exporting over a million barrels a day. If we had not put on export controls, we would not have any oil left for ourselves.

I conclude by saying that I think much of the minister's statement today, like the statement of the Prime Minister last Thursday night, is an attempt to divert public attention from the fact that the government has procrastinated for so long that it has allowed this country to get into this very unfortunate situation. The minister says that when the Arab-Israeli war is over, we will return to normal. I want to remind him that the OPEC nations, and particularly the Arab states, have made it clear that even when the war is over they do not propose to go beyond the production figures they had prior to that time. I think the day may come when we will thank the Arab states for waking us up to the fact that we must develop a policy by which we can use our own resources for the benefit of the Canadian people; and the sooner we get busy and do that, the better it will be for all concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am informed by reliable sources that it is approximately six o'clock. However, I am wondering whether it would be the sense of the House that the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) be allowed to make his statement at this time.

**Some hon. Members:** Six o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** This would require unanimous consent, and I am inquiring whether there is such.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent.