

Energy Monitoring Act

Government of Canada, told the maritimes people that they would have natural gas in 1983. The year 1983 is only a few months away and we do not even have natural gas in eastern Quebec. How will natural gas be delivered to the maritimes by 1983? Natural gas will not be there by 1983, 1984 or 1985. I doubt that this government will ever be able to deliver natural gas to the maritimes. Again, this is just a charade; going through this exercise of trying to fool the people because this government will not face up to the facts. This government will not face up to the fact that in Canada you have to rely on the resources of the people. You have to rely on private industry to get things done. If you do not, Mr. Speaker, you are in a great deal of trouble.

I just wanted to put those few remarks on the record. I want to warn the Government of Canada again that it should become realistic about its approach to resolving problems in Canada. It should not rely on myths but on substance. It should not rely on theories such as Canadianization. It should be relying on the capability and capacity of Canadians to resolve the problem. If it does not do that, then the government is leading us down that long road which the Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker said has no ash cans. That is the road we are on today with Bill C-106 that is before us; we are going down a long road that has no ash cans. That is no solution to this problem.

The solution to the problem is the capacity and capability of Canadians. That is what we have to rely on. We should not rely on a bunch of government bureaucrats who claim through the purchase of Petro-Canada and the reversal of policies on offshore development that we can lighten the energy problem. We cannot. There is all kinds of evidence to show that this government does not know what it is doing. What about the oil rigs that are leaving the east coast exploration grounds and returning to the shore and not going back? Just this week in Halifax a most important energy exploration program to be carried out under the auspices of Shell Oil involving \$200 million was delayed for four months because the government's Department of Energy, Mines and Resources did not sit down with the officers and engineers of Shell Oil and come to some sensible arrangement and agreement on how the exploration is to be carried out.

That is illustrative of the burden Canadians will have to bear under this kind of legislation and government interference, which goes against the principles of the free enterprise system and the principles of Canadian industry. It will have no good result.

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, one of the rare treats in the House of Commons is to hear a Tory member speak. What is said is generally anything but informative. The previous speaker has probably given one of the best examples that I have heard in a long time. The report entitled "The State of Competition in the Canadian Petroleum Industry" does not exist for the Tories.

It is interesting to note that in that report there are a number of factors which stress the benefits of the free enterprise system, the unregulated free enterprise system. I want it

clearly placed on the record that the previous speaker has come out in support of one of our primary movers and shakers in this country, namely Imperial Oil. This report brands Imperial Oil as one of the prime movers in restricting and stifling competition in this country and failing to give a fair break to consumers.

The hon. member suggests that we should provide more deregulation of that industry. There is Shell Oil, Texaco—

Mr. Crosby: What about the State of Maine?

Mr. Skelly:—and there is Gulf Oil, the group that has been criticized for involvement in an uranium cartel in other areas. So there again is the question of competition legislation. I am convinced, after listening to the previous speaker, that unregulated free enterprise under a Tory government would perpetuate the kind of rip-off that resulted between 1958 and 1972 in the removal of \$12 billion from the Canadian consumers' pockets. That is the kind of policy the Tories and the gophers of the oil companies are advocating in this House of Commons.

Second, the Liberal government, literally their partners in crime, have always recognized the problems but never had the jam to come forward and really meet the needs of Canadians.

It is unfortunate that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) is not here any more. We are talking about protecting the Canadian consumer which, in the final analysis, is everyone's goal. But there are a few items here in which the minister of consumer affairs would be interested. He is the minister charged with protecting the interests of consumers and trying to maintain in the pockets of working Canadians, senior citizens and those on fixed incomes some reasonably fair share of the income they struggle to make in this high interest, heavy inflation period.

One interesting feature of the costs we are looking at is the dramatic increase in the price of gasoline and home heating fuel. Hon. members to my right are quite correct in saying that here is a government, during this very serious economic crisis, removing more money almost in an incongruous way from the pockets of consumers while we see prices dropping in other areas of the world.

Mr. Waddell: That is exactly what the Tories plan to do.

Mr. McDermid: Are you promising lower gas prices?

Mr. Skelly: Let us go back for a moment and look at what should be happening. As a result of a number of individuals coming forward and indicating they were suffering at the hands of what appeared to be monopolistic practices in the oil industry, a report was issued. A number of points were dealt with in this report. The first covered the importation of oil in which the parent company transferring oil from multinational companies in Canada was found to be ripping off Canadians on the transfer price. A recommendation ensued which stated that legislation be enacted to prohibit the payment of artificially high transfer prices and that legislation be enacted to grant the appropriate authorities the necessary power to obtain