

Oil and Gas

On the Prairies we are free from any increases until the end of January has passed, but I predict that these pent-up losses, the sense of dissatisfaction and the tension will see an increase of prices that you cannot hold back. This will be much worse than if the government had done it the proper way. I am referring to the \$1.90 import tax.

Mr. Douglas: Export tax.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Export tax. Any person who was in the west during the period of the 40-cent export tax announcement and who was a serious lover of his country would have recognized the strain that was put on confederation by that announcement. What will it be tomorrow, as they realize that what they heard in the speculative stories over radio, television and in the press these past two days about the good spirit between Alberta and the federal minister, is now kicked down the drain and for the month of December the export tax is being raised to \$1.90?

And what of British Columbia? Look at the short shrift they get there—higher prices on every front, with no effort made to assure them of supplies. So I predict that the fundamental significance of this statement is simply a question of delaying today, and that we are going to have higher prices for tomorrow.

● (2020)

I want, now, to go back to the \$1.90 export tax. I could not help noting, as the minister read the statement tonight, the joint applause of the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party. I ask everybody in Canada: Where will the \$1.90 go? On our part, we have made it clear that every bit of this \$1.90 tax, or any type of export tax which is a tax on the resources of a single province like Saskatchewan or Alberta, should be returned to the producing province.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): This statement does not make clear who will get it. Will the Maritimes get it? Will Quebec get it? Will British Columbia get it? Many years ago there was an advertising slogan that we heard over the radio—"I wonder where the yellow went?" Now it will be, "I wonder where the \$1.90 went?" I want to speak to the minister in a personal way by saying how the situation should have been handled. The first and obvious thing is that the only way our fuel system will work is when the nine provincial provinces, the two territories, and the federal government—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: There are ten provinces.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):—the ten provinces, the two territories and the federal government share responsibility for management of resources. The only way to make it work in our federal system is by consultation beforehand and jointly arrived at plans to meet this problem.

This government does not give us confidence. Just a few weeks ago it announced that it was phasing out the

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain).]

National Council of Resource Ministers. This was a sophisticated technique set up so that the 11 equal governments and the territories could jointly work out problems for the joint management of their resources. René Lévesque, who has been in the news these last two months and who was a Liberal minister of the Crown in Quebec where this council was set up, is on public record as saying, as a sincere man like him would say, that the only way we will make the federal system work is through this form of consultation, with people meeting as equals and acting in the best interests of all the people. If they had used the process of consultation, we could have sat down and made concrete plans with the provinces to lessen the impact of the world energy revolution on the consumers of Canada.

I am going to say what I mean by consultation. To us, consultation means concrete plans with the provinces for the maximum and best use of resources. In the present situation, it means co-ordinating policies with producing provinces of oil and gas to lessen the impact of a world energy revolution on consumers. It means heavy emphasis on positive policies to enlarge our present industries and to add new industries based on the comparative advantage that our oil, gas, uranium, coal and hydro power potential gives us. Provinces with energy potential have waited a long time for this industrialization to come to their areas. This was their great opportunity.

The second thing we would have done would have been to sit down with the provinces and seriously consider all the conservation areas we could have used to save fuel in view of today's wasteful consumption.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I am not just referring to turning out the lights in the Pearson building. We could have sat down and worked out transportation techniques to move fuel from surplus areas to deficit areas. We could have talked over the question of storage. We could have considered the humanitarian concerns of the people so dependent on fuel in the winter time. But, above all, if it is a question of working out with the provinces the *quid pro quo*, we could have resolved the wants and desires of the producing provinces and their ambitions for the future, with the needs of the consumers to meet this shock in a staged manner so that the impact would be lessened or equalized all over the country.

For instance, one of the things that could have been put before provinces which have potential gas and oil is our insistence that if any gas or oil goes across the border in future, the Americans must take off the petrochemical tariff and give us a chance to build industry in Canada. This is the type of thing on which we would like to place emphasis.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not take any longer than the minister took. I want to say, as I did the other night, that consultation is not a dirty word, nor is it demeaning to sit down with our equals in the research field of the provinces to work out programs on how to get a Montreal pipeline in place quickly, and how to make deals with Venezuela and Nigeria on getting oil. Plans could be worked out so that the people least able to bear the problem will not suffer. All these suggestions have been made to the minister, as we all know, since January of this