

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

tries, miscellaneous textile industries, paper, petroleum refineries, petroleum and coal products, manufacturers of plastics, resins, paint and varnish, plastic fabricators, all kinds of other manufacturing industries. It will affect wood industries, transportation, electric power and gas utilities, coal and coke, petroleum bulk tank stations, and many other industries.

This bill confers significant powers. I emphasize that no government, certainly not this government, which has put forward its case through the mouth of the minister who has been supported only by the acquiescence and silence of backbenchers, is entitled to these powers permanently. I submit that on the evidence presented thus far the government is not entitled to the powers it asks parliament to confer.

There is another serious ramification that flows from this bill; that is, the seeming authority that is given to the government of Canada, if there were a national emergency, to interfere in fields of legislative authority which are left to the provinces under the constitution of Canada. There are many in this country who would be inclined to argue that our constitution perhaps needs revamping and that we ought to take a long look at it from the point of view of changes and amendments, a redistribution of power and a redefinition of the objectives towards which all levels of government should aim. That may be all well and good; yet, surely there is a time and place for this, Mr. Speaker. There is a method for doing it. I suggest that the method is not the introduction of a piece of legislation which, in the hands of one government, can be used to bludgeon another. I gravely suspect that this idea is behind the haste with which this government wants to garner these powers unto itself.

Speaking as a member of parliament from Ontario, I am concerned for my own province because of the powers that would be granted to the government under this bill, particularly with respect to the field of hydroelectric energy. I am sure that this concern is shared by representatives from the province of Quebec, although some of them have sold out their principles to the extent that they probably would not voice that concern on the floor of this House. That is why they remain silent about that concept of this bill and another which has been mooted. They well know of what I speak.

Clause 14 permits the government to authorize the allocation of electric power and to establish mandatory allocations in respect thereof. This comes within the terms of the statute. Once electric power has been added to the mandatory allocation program this act will apply *mutatis mutandis* in respect of electric power to the same extent as if such electric power were a petroleum product. There is no mention of consultation. I think this is an omission, and perhaps indicates the way in which this government is prepared to consider relationships between the federal and provincial governments of this country.

No one would ever argue that there would never be a time in our national life when such drastic, sweeping powers which leap across sections of the British North America Act might not be necessary. In that event, I put it to you that there would not be one provincial legislator, not one provincial premier and not one provincial government in this country which, regardless of political stripe,

[Mr. Baker.]

would stand against the government of Canada if it needed these kinds of powers in a real emergency.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, without such an emergency, and even if the government says that there is an anticipated emergency, in connection with energy, but has not proven it to any greater extent than it has, these clauses can only be classed as instruments of confrontation as opposed to consultation. These instruments are not unfamiliar to this government. Speaking as a member from Ontario, I think that the government has embarked upon a very dangerous course for which it has not proven the necessity. One can only speculate as to the reasons for adopting this position.

Much has been said, Mr. Speaker, about what has been generally and loosely called an energy crisis, whether in terms of supply or in terms of the transportation system. There might be a crisis relating to transportation, in that it may be difficult to supply Canadians in all parts of Canada with fuel taken from territory within their country. In the recent weeks when we have been exposed to many government inconsistencies and the general lack of leadership in the important field of energy, it has become apparent to Canadians that there is a much more important crisis facing them. That crisis is the crisis of leadership, a crisis caused by the failure of the government either to anticipate events, as reasonable men would expect them to be anticipated, or to act when these events have appeared on the horizon.

If there is a place where the crisis of leadership in this country is apparent, it is in the fact that at this late date, in 1973, the government of Canada, with all its resources and research capabilities, with the large and growing Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, cannot say to this House that it has a Montreal pipeline in the works. Oh, they have talked about the pipeline. The Prime Minister has used his prime ministerial rhetoric about the pipeline. As each day goes on, the date upon which such a pipeline would be in place fades further and further into the future. Not long ago the Prime Minister indicated that the pipeline would be ready in 1974. Everyone was prepared to cheer. Then, a few days ago we heard that the government has been told that the pipeline cannot be commenced until some time in 1975. Then, the other day, we found out that two applications to the National Energy Board would be required. The government has not even told us authoritatively what is to be the size of the pipe.

The government indicated as late as last night on the CTV network, through the mouth of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, that it was not even sure of the route that was to be taken. There is the whole question of acquiring and establishing the right of way. There is even the question of acquiring steel. This has not been dealt with authoritatively. All of these problems have been allowed to lie dormant even though we are faced with them in this usual mad scrambling of a government which scrambles to make up for its own deficiencies. This is a mad scramble which is usually fraught with futility.

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All of these problems have been allowed to lie dormant. They have even been allowed to lie dormant since September 4 and, more important, well before that time. As is usual with this government, we are now faced with a last