

our resources and their development. We must give our children and our children's children a better share in a world where an adequate supply of energy is fundamental. I think the Canadian people understand that. I think they know that energy is fundamental, and that what we do with energy and how we develop it will really determine the future of succeeding generations in Canada.

● (1740)

We will not settle for no loaf, like the Conservatives, or for half a loaf, as the Liberals propose in this bill with its glaring weaknesses. Mr. Speaker, we want the whole loaf; we want control of the energy industry by the Canadian people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, as we go into the final stages of debate on Bill C-48, I should like to make a few comments. One of the major concerns that this party has about Bill C-48 is the powers that it gives to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde).

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) for stating the position of the New Democratic Party. If anyone had any doubt about NDP philosophy, it would have been removed by the speeches we have heard on Bill C-48 over the last few days. That party is completely and totally opposed to the free enterprise system. If it could destroy more industries by nationalizing them and socializing them, it certainly would. I will point out what it would cost the Canadian people to go along with nationalizing industries. There would be a loss of investment money, a loss of jobs, and companies would move out of Canada.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway said that this party is the spokesman for the oil companies. Mr. Speaker, this party is the spokesman for every small Canadian business. I will speak up for Canadian business and do everything I possibly can to oppose this socialist legislation of the Liberal and NDP parties and its onslaught on Canadian business. The people most affected by Bill C-48 are the small Canadian businessmen, and the government is out to get them.

In his speech this afternoon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. MacLaren) spoke of cheap gas and cheap oil, but there is no cheap gas or cheap oil, Mr. Speaker. In the 1980 federal election campaign the Liberal party promised Canadians that energy prices would stay low. It claimed that the price hike would be less than half of what this party had planned, and that it would negotiate an increase of less than 14 cents. Depending upon the location in Canada, in 1980 gasoline prices rose by between 22 cents and 29 cents per gallon, far in excess of the promised 14 cents. The Liberals were returned to power after campaigning against our energy price proposals, and since then gasoline prices have risen in some areas by as much as 65 cents per gallon.

Increases due solely to federal taxes amount to 36 cents per gallon, which is twice the 18 cents per gallon excise tax proposed in our budget. Since that election the price of home-

heating oil has risen by 44 cents per gallon and more. This situation will be further strained in the next few years when the federal-Alberta agreement allows crude oil prices to rise at almost double the rate of our proposal.

These energy price increases have been imposed without benefit of the energy tax credits that would have provided \$250 for a typical low or middle-income family this year as a hedge against the price increases. I will say no more, Mr. Speaker; the real facts are evident.

This is the sort of false information that the Liberals are sending out to their constituents, but what is new about that?

I have here a document sent by the Secretary of State (Mr. Regan) to his constituents in Halifax in December 1980. It contains a graph headed "Gasoline Crosbie vs MacEachen" and shows that under the Crosbie pricing plan, in 1981 gasoline would have cost \$1.56 per gallon or 34 cents per litre while under the Liberals the price would be \$1.36 per gallon or 30 cents per litre. That is totally false, Mr. Speaker. In Halifax, and in parts of Nova Scotia, at the present time the price is around \$1.74 per gallon. A colleague from Nova Scotia informs me that it is even higher than that, but this is what a minister of the Crown told his constituents in a document he sent to all of them. He claimed that gas would only cost \$1.36 in 1981. We find out now that in Nova Scotia people are paying \$1.74 or more.

In the last federal election the Liberals also told the Canadian people night after night on national television that they would lower interest rates. That was another lie. There was also all the nonsense about cheap gas.

Let me put on record what the Liberals have done for the Canadian people in the area of energy since they were returned to power, Mr. Speaker. On November 1, 1980, a tax of 80 cents per barrel was imposed. This translates into about six tenths of one cent per litre or 2.7 cents per gallon. This tax was imposed to help cover the cost of subsidizing refiners for the difference between domestic and world prices, which is about \$20 per barrel.

On January 1, 1981, the same tax was increased by \$2.50 per barrel, which amounts to 2 cents per litre or 9 cents per gallon. We did not hear anything about that from the Liberals in the last election campaign. The message was that we would get cheap gas.

On March 1, 1981, retail prices climbed about eight tenths of one per cent per litre or 3.6 cents per gallon to reflect an increase of \$1 in the wellhead price of oil on January 1. By agreement, oil companies do not pass on a wellhead increase to consumers for 60 days.

On March 3 of this year a special tax of 75 cents per barrel or about six tenths of one cent per litre or 2.7 cents per gallon, was imposed because of the Alberta production cuts.

On May 1 of this year a special levy of \$1.15 per barrel was imposed, which is almost one cent per litre or 4.5 cents per gallon. The purpose of this levy was to finance the bulk of Petro-Canada's \$1.46 billion of Petrofina. This was not required, but \$1.46 billion in Canadian funds went to Belgium.