

Summer Recess

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to hear the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

An hon. Member: Deans said no.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I would not want to leave the wrong impression. I did not refuse the hon. member the right to proceed. I was just shaking my head at the pitiful effort he put forward. I could not imagine wanting to inflict any more of that on the House.

I have been listening with interest to the speakers who have preceded me. I listened to the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Mackasey) with considerable interest, hoping to grasp or to hear some indication of what the Liberal party really believed. I listened to the hon. member for Saskatchewan West—Saskatoon West—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Saskatchewan is the province; Saskatoon is the city.

Mr. Deans: I realize that. I listened to the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) with interest because he seemed for one reason or another to want to address himself more to the NDP than to the issue. As I listened to him and tried to compare what he was saying with what has been said by other Conservative members over the course of the last week, or perhaps week and a half, with regard to energy policy and this particular problem of the pre-build, I came to the conclusion, in the words of a close colleague of mine, that the Conservative party, on this issue at least, has more positions than Masters and Johnson.

Mr. McDermid: Bill Davis used that line three weeks ago on you guys.

Mr. Deans: It is a shame that we have not really addressed this very crucial problem. This is an important day in the history of Canada. We are debating an issue which could well decide the economic future of the country. We are talking about whether or not this country will be self-sufficient in energy, with energy available from coast to coast in years to come. We are talking about the single most valuable resource any country can have. We are very privileged as a country because we have energy in various forms and in sufficient quantities to allow us to be self-sufficient. We have energy which very few industrialized countries in the world have available to them, we have the capacity right in this country to develop an economy, job opportunities and a quality of life second to none. Yet, the government makes a decision which allows some of that very valuable energy, which no doubt we will need some day in the future, to be exported out of the country to the United States without any consideration for how it will be replaced, what it will cost to replace it, or for the fact that future generations will require that energy for their needs. That is what the issue is all about today, and that is what we should be talking about.

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I thought for a while that the Liberal party understood the issue. I listened with interest to the comments made by Liberals over the course of the last year. I read with interest what was said by the Liberal party during the debates in the House of Commons prior to the last election and on the hustings during the last election. I read with interest the comments of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray). Here is a nationalist if ever I saw one, or at least so he says. As reported in *Hansard* of December 12, 1979, he said:

The Conservative answer to our balance of payments problem is to encourage more exports of unprocessed non-renewable raw material. This, in fact, is what their decision to allow larger exports of natural gas really means. Rather than use it to build up and expand our petrochemical industry, rather than use it as a substitute for imported oil, Conservatives have agreed to export it, and they have done so without getting any commitment that American gas will be available later for Canada on a swap basis at the same price.

He then went on to say:

They have done so without getting any commitment in return from the United States for greater access for our manufactured goods. The Conservatives have allowed these exports, without getting any final commitment on the building of the northern gas pipeline. They do not have any final commitment from the gas producers that they will finance and ensure the building of a natural gas pipeline to Atlantic Canada. Instead, through this budget, Canadians are being asked to pay higher fuel prices and higher taxes under the guise of helping Canada reach energy self-sufficiency.

He went on to say:

But to the extent any of this money is used to find new oil and new natural gas, I ask the House what assurance Canadians have from the Conservative government that any new reserves found at the expense of Canadian taxpayers, middle and lower-income Canadians, will not simply be exported to the United States.

This is happening with much of the reserves of natural gas found in recent years in Canada, natural gas reserves found with money put up by Canadian taxpayers through higher prices and tax expenditures. That was the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce speaking in the budget debate. When one reads that, one says to oneself, "Now, there is a man who knows what the problem is". My colleague sitting beside me said under his breath, "What a phony". I wish he would say it louder.

An hon. Member: What a phony.

Mr. Deans: Thank you. It is quite clear to everyone exactly what that was. Of course it was not only the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He is not the only phony on the Liberal benches.

Mr. Broadbent: Do not forget the Tories.

Mr. Deans: We will get to the Tories. I should like to refer to the present Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). He said before the Standing Committee on Northern Pipelines on March 20, 1979:

It is the policy of this government that we will insist upon a guarantee that the total line be built, that the financial arrangements for the building of the entire line be in place before we give the green light for going ahead with the pre-build.

That was the Minister of Finance speaking. There was another phony, if I ever heard one. Then there was the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde),