

The Address—Mr. T. C. Douglas

sell the accessible gas to the United States, as we are doing, Canadians will have to depend increasingly upon gas produced in less accessible areas and the cost of the gas will consequently be much higher.

We are opposed to this decision because we believe that inadequate consideration has been given to Canada's long-term energy needs. Under the arrangements which the government have approved, Canada will be selling to the United States more than half our total gas production, and by 1990 we shall be selling two-thirds of our total gas production to the United States. The National Energy Board estimates that we are now supplying to the United States 3 per cent of its total consumption and that by 1990 we shall be supplying 15 per cent.

Of even more significance, the board estimates Canadian consumption per capita in 1990 to be at the same level as per capita consumption in the United States in 1975. In other words, the National Energy Board and the government seem perfectly prepared to see Canadian consumption per capita lag 15 years behind that of the United States, despite the fact that we were late in utilizing gas and that we have a cold climate. We believe that future Canadian long-term requirements have been grossly underestimated by the board. On the basis of a mere 10 per cent increase per annum—I believe the increase will amount to more than that—we shall have reached in 1981 the consumption which the board estimates for 1990.

The National Energy Board and the government have overlooked two important factors in estimating our long-term needs. First, they have overlooked the necessity for conversion to gas, particularly for the generating of electricity, bearing in mind that gas is the least polluting form of energy.

Mr. Pepin: They have not overlooked it.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): The second is that a very large requirement for natural gas will exist in Canada if we are to embark upon a program of processing more of our own primary products in this country. The effect of the government's decision to approve this tremendous sale of natural gas to the United States is to tie Canada even more closely into the American economy; it is one more step in making Canada an economic dependency, a military satellite and a cultural colony of the United States. I tell the government that they may sit here in their ivory tower and toss about finespun theories, but the Canadian people are becoming alarmed at this situation, as is shown by the statements of one of the government's former ministers, Hon. Walter Gordon, and others, as well as by editorials appearing in newspapers and periodicals across the nation. I warn the government that the time will come very soon when the Canadian people will no longer allow a cynical and supine government to barter away our birthright in the name of continentalism.

We in the New Democratic Party believe that the first call on our energy resources should be the development of a viable Canadian industry which will convert our raw materials into processed and manufactured goods. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in a speech he was to have made in Portland, Oregon, on September 23, but which was read for him by his Parliamentary Secre-

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

tary, set forth two conditions for supplying the United States with natural gas: first, free access for Canada to the United States' market for Canadian oil and, second access to the United States' market for Canadian manufactured products. We did not get either of these concessions.

We do not object to selling to the United States any of our surplus energy resources, subject to two provisos. The first is that Canada's long-term needs as an expanding industrial nation have been fully taken into account, and the second is that we gain access to the United States market for Canadian semi-processed and finished products. Neither of those provisos has been met and the government has betrayed the best interests of the Canadian people by entering into an agreement which will perpetuate our economic dependence upon, and exploitation by, the United States.

Mr. Woolliams: We are good whipping boys.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In his speech, the Prime Minister made reference repeatedly to the need for more planning. At times he suggested that we had not enough planning in Canada. That is not true; we do have planning. As a matter of fact, Canada has been the victim of corporate planning by United States-based multinational corporations. We have had planning, but it has been planning by and for corporations rather than planning for the well-being of all Canadians. Corporate power has been expanding steadily in our society. Corporations have been able to insulate themselves from the free forces of the market place. By setting administered prices they have virtually taxed the public on the consumer goods they buy in order to secure the necessary funds for their capital requirements, thus insulating themselves from the effects of any monetary policy the government may impose. These corporations control their sources of supply, set their own prices and by expensive advertising programs, influence consumer buying patterns.

● (3:20 p.m.)

The effect of this corporate domination is all too evident in our society. It sets the social priorities, with the result that we have a superabundance of private goods but a famine in public goods. We are able to spend \$1.2 billion a year in advertising, but we lack the funds to combat pollution effectively. Commercial construction is up, but the building of houses for low and middle income groups is down. Money can be found for prestigious office buildings and high-rise apartments, for a third supermarket in each shopping centre and for a fourth gas station at each street corner, but money is lacking for public housing, nursing homes for the aged and schools for the mentally retarded.

The Speech from the Throne calls for "a society in which life is measured in qualitative, not quantitative, terms". This is unmitigated hypocrisy when the Canadian people have to endure the pollution of their atmosphere, water and soil, and the government sits supinely by when the financial institutions ignore their pleas for larger investment in residential housing.