

have the duty to answer that question as well as meet the aspirations and desires of the Quebec people.

What the leader of the official opposition had to say might have seemed harsh but I think they were right on. I point that out to invite government members as well as other members from Quebec to impress on the minister the importance of ensuring that equity between eastern and western Canada and not to apply again that practice on the feed grain policy which proved very costly to the province of Quebec and eastern Canada and created some measure of economic separatism.

Quebec did not invent it because I remember reading an article on that not too long ago. Mr. Gérard Filion stated that economic separatism did not originate in the province of Quebec but had been invented 30 years ago by the Canadian Wheat Board which through its policy unfortunately practiced discrimination against eastern producers. We have before us a legislation which may have the same results.

Allow me, as a member from a constituency concerned with the problem, to remind the Quebec members that it is important instead of blaming or criticizing the minister to urge him to understand. I think he is open to any suggestions made in the House. We must make those suggestions objectively, and this is what I am trying to do. I ask the minister to ensure this price equalization between the East and the West. So, nobody in the East would be inclined to think that the federal government attempted to protect the West to the prejudice of the East.

I do not think at all that the minister intends to establish such a policy. I must say that even Quebec or eastern members must strive to obtain such an equalization from this government. Indeed, this must be said in this House. All members agree on the possibility of establishing a uniform price both in the East and in the West. I listened to the remarks of other members, even western members, who are clearly in favour of a single price across Canada. Thus, we will have obtained from this government the necessary respect and objectivity.

• (2110)

I want to take this opportunity to point out that the Quebec government still has a long term policy for the petrochemical industry. For many months people have been talking about the building of a seaport for giant tankers. Rumors were even heard about a possible agreement between Quebec and Saudi Arabia providing for the building of refineries. To what extent will this bill allow the province of Quebec to fulfill its ambitions?

I do not know yet the powers that the federal government will be yielding in the field of energy. We are talking about a federal-provincial conference. Now, I believe all those questions could have been discussed before the bill was introduced in this House. I am not saying this piece of legislation is not needed. But, I would have liked, Mr. Speaker, this federal-provincial Conference to take place well before the introduction of this bill. To what extent will this bill allow a province like mine to undertake anything worth while? Of course, other members will want to emphasize the interests of their own provinces and that is normal. If they did not, they would not be performing their duty in an objective way.

### *Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

As far as I am concerned, I am keenly aware of the importance for my province to have its petrochemical industry developed further. I am anxious to see my province get ahead with certain projects relating to refineries, supplies, and security where petroleum products are concerned. The extension of the pipeline to Montreal will have Quebecers pay more for Canadian petroleum products than for off-shore products. Considering the price situation on the world market, it could very well be that for some time, the oil coming from Alberta will not be more expensive in the East than the one coming from foreign countries. It is also possible that, in view of the fact that the crisis may well cease to exist, people in Quebec could be forced to pay higher prices because we will still have been provided with supply facilities.

We know perfectly well that if we build this oil pipeline, there will be compulsory minimum consumption. What will be the price of the products coming in from Alberta? How far is the government willing to go with its pricing policy which would enable us Easterners to take advantage of a resource coming from Alberta, a Canadian resource. I am not against our consuming Canadian resources. On the contrary, I think we should consume products coming from a Canadian province. But I think it is equally important that we guarantee Easterners prices which will not be higher than the prices they can get abroad. It has been suggested that the government absorb any excess and I think this is very good. The government should guarantee to people of both the East and the West, the benefit of identical prices.

I believe that my remarks are very objective and I hope that hon. members will think of securing this equity to both eastern and western Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard various comments. There are objections, arguments and criticism on both sides of this House. I think that as a whole, members of various parts of this country have made excellent suggestions and I hope that the minister, who paid great attention to the debates, which is heartening for us hon. members, will consider these suggestions and that Quebec members will take advantage of the fact that they are in large numbers to force this government to answer my suggestions, that are also put forward by members from Quebec.

Besides I am convinced that Quebec members are quite interested in satisfying as much as possible their constituents. Before I conclude, I would like to refer to the lead article I was reading recently in a Montreal weekly paper. It was written by Claude Lavergne and calls for reflection. This is what Mr. Lavergne said:

The energy policy announced this week by the Trudeau government is a step in the right direction. On a short range basis, it prevents Canada from suffering a crisis in the uncertainty of a general election, then it secures the short term allocation of our western oil throughout Canada.

Nevertheless Ottawa did not go all the way in its efforts toward Canadian security in terms of stability in the field of energy.

Having decided to maintain the oil price freeze throughout Canada, with the exception of the eastern provinces, including Quebec, the federal government is not afraid to create two classes of citizens within one piece of legislation and within the same boundaries.

This was not said by me, Mr. Speaker, but by a very objective editorialist. He has often praised this govern-