

also costly. That reason in itself would be enough to inspire sorrow, but we must add that Quebec's non-participation to the conference is not a disappointment for that reason. In the past that province did indeed play an active role in setting up the national tourism plan. Quebec was the provincial representative within a working group of three parties responsible for compiling the Canadian participation, provincial or territorial and private, in drafting the outline of the structure of the national tourism plan, considering especially that Quebec was among the first provinces which said that they were prepared to contribute to the establishment of that plan.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, just as the hon. member for Laval we must also regret that Quebec, and particularly the Premier of Quebec, spend more time trying to unite the genuine and the bad separatists. If he were to take more seriously his duties as premier it would undoubtedly be possible to work harder and more efficiently for the economy of Quebec and, consequently, for the economy of Canada.

● (2205)

[English]

PIPELINES—EXTENSION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO EAST COAST. (B) DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, my purpose in addressing the House tonight was to consider the matter of the extension of the natural gas pipeline from its current terminus in Montreal through Quebec City in the province of Quebec to the New Brunswick border and on to Halifax in the province of Nova Scotia, then extended to the Strait of Canso in the same province. However, having listened to two members in the House from the province of Quebec engage in what I can only describe as Quebec bashing, I seriously wonder whether the pipeline, which must of necessity pass through the province of Quebec to gain access to the maritime provinces, will ever be built. Unless we can right some of these differences in Canada, and unless we can bring together the province of Quebec, the government of that province and the Government of Canada we will have no hope of success for the kind of energy and other national projects which are absolutely essential to the welfare of this nation. I ask hon. members from the province of Quebec not to bring their squabbles to the floor of this House but to consider the national interests and all those who are not involved in this federal government-Quebec government dispute.

On November 9, I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) when the government would authorize the extension of the Canadian natural gas pipeline to the east coast, and particularly to Nova Scotia, as recommended by the National Energy Board. I was concerned that the government's delay in rendering its decision would not only retard construction of the pipeline extension but would jeopardize the whole project, already two years behind schedule. Now, finally, by an order in council apparently made on December 12, 1981, almost six months late, the government has granted approval to the pipeline extension. But we are still left with this question: will the pipeline extension now be built?

### Adjournment Debate

I believe the answer to that question, even at this late date, is in doubt. Why? Because the National Energy Board must process an application for a certificate and in doing so must review and reconsider several matters still unsettled. Those matters include assurance of natural gas supplies from western Canada, evidenced by contracts for transport, transmission and distribution; financing of the project which will inevitably include consumer price and the considerations of the level of federal subsidization.

● (2210)

Another point, Mr. Speaker, is that final designs for the actual pipeline, which will inevitably involve questions of interference with private property rights and environmental impact, will have to be decided. So the extension of the pipeline is far from assured, and the purpose and intent of this lengthy exercise may be lost to the detriment of those concerned, especially east coast energy consumers.

Let us consider the government's record on the matter of the natural gas pipeline extension. It should be noted that the project costs, when the extension was first proposed, were estimated at \$1.2 billion. Now costs have soared to over \$2 billion for the 1700 kilometre line and the laterals involved.

The first point is that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), when he was serving as Leader of the Opposition in January, 1980, during the course of an election campaign promised the gas pipeline extension. Notwithstanding this promise, the National Energy Board refused permission for the pipeline and later denied and appeal from that refusal. Then, Mr. Speaker, the National Energy Program, when it was finally unveiled in this House in October, 1980 with the budget documents, guaranteed the building of a natural gas pipeline. At that point in time, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources finally recognized the dependence of the east coast, and particularly the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, on foreign oil and the difficulties that flowed from that dependence.

Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of electricity generated in the province of Nova Scotia was generated from foreign crude oil. That amount has been reduced substantially—to less than half that amount—but there is still a very substantial dependence on foreign crude oil supplies.

The deficit applicable to eastern Canada in terms of imported foreign crude amounts to some 400,000 gallons annually, and that involves a \$2.5 billion subsidy on the part of the Government of Canada in order to pay for those foreign oil supplies.

During that same period, Mr. Speaker, the cost of gas to the consumer has risen to \$1.80 a gallon in Halifax, Nova Scotia, today. That is almost 50 cents more than the \$1.36 a gallon the government promised would be the limit on the price of gasoline under the proposals which it advanced in the federal election campaign. But, more important, Mr. Speaker, home heating oil has advanced in price and is approximately \$1.35 per gallon in Nova Scotia. Mr. Speaker, that is greatly in excess of the amount of the cost of home heating oil at the