

In the matter of oil, generally speaking Canada has remained with the price at the world market level. Unless conditions change significantly, this still seems to be by far the best policy for us to follow. I foresee great overtones of trouble developing for us in the future in moving into a two-price system.

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in this debate on the motion moved on behalf of our party by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas). To my mind, no question outlined in Parliament today is more central to the very future of our country and the future needs of the consumers of this country, regardless of whether they are farmers on the prairies or consumers of natural gas in Toronto or wherever they may live.

I listened to some of the debate today with great interest. I think it has outlined the position of the different parties in terms of their stand on the energy crisis as it affects the people of Canada. I am appalled at the position and the attitude of the Tory party on such a fundamental question. First of all, this party which has historically taken the position of advocating a sort of nice Canadian nationalism of the days of Sir John A. Macdonald is now the greatest proponent of a continental approach to the use of our oil and gas resources.

The hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie) seemed to apologize for the U.S.A. and the position in which it finds itself in terms of energy and energy needs. He seemed to be suggesting that we really must not start to control our export of oil and gas and must not begin to plan for the needs of Canadians. I want to point out that before the committee of the House of Commons dealing with the price, cost and supply of oil and natural gas it was pointed out, in terms of the charts, that in fact if all the known reserves of oil and natural gas in Canada today were turned over lock, stock and barrel to the United States, those reserves of oil and natural gas would supply the United States market for less than one year. That is the kind of situation which exists in respect of Canada and the United States. There is less than one year's supply in terms of known reserves. The Tory party talks about a wide open field between the United States and Canada in terms of a continentalist policy in respect of oil and natural gas.

The hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Balfour) and one of the Toronto members cried crocodile tears for the oil companies. I believe it would be written in the history of this country, if a Tory government were formed and allowed a free flow of non-renewable resources into the United States market, that it would be one of the greatest sell-outs, comparable only to the sell-out of the rest of our industries by those sitting across from the Tories. Let me point out that if we continue to operate on a philosophy of allowing the free flow on a so-called open market among multi-national, United States-owned and controlled corporations, and keep working under this narrow and outdated philosophy presented by the oldline parties in this House, we will be in the position of putting the price of our oil and gas at a level which is inconceivable in terms of the farmer on the land and the consumer in the town or city.

We must begin now to look into planning the use of our natural resources. For whom are those natural resources

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there? Are they there for the large, United States multinational corporations, corporations which when they face a certain restriction, a very minor move by the Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) about which the Tory party complained, switch to another angle to protect their own private interests? They export out of Canada by moving gasoline across the border.

Members of this House listened to the independent dealer, not a representative of the monopolies to which the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) referred but, rather, a representative of the independent suppliers in the Ottawa valley who had to close down most of his independent operations while the monopoly corporations had a greater market supply. He told the newscaster on television at six o'clock, during the news program, that one of the major reasons he was closing down was that the large, United States-owned monopoly corporations in this country were now in fact moving gasoline across the border in order to avoid the import restrictions on oil.

If the government, in the interest of the people of Canada, cannot now see the absolute necessity of considering the public interest in respect of the production and supply of our oil and natural gas, I believe the philosophy of the old-line parties is outmoded and outdated in terms of the development of our resources which are needed by the people of Canada.

The resolution points out the concept of a two-price system for oil and natural gas, or energy supplies in Canada. I believe it is of considerable merit. Surely when our population is so dependent on these resources, and the industrial world is so dependent on the supply of non-renewable resources, it is incumbent upon us as the representatives of our people to find it in the public interest to control the price they must pay for their energy. I believe we must begin to prod the government into directly intervening in the activities of the oil and gas industries, which is a policy I do not believe we will see followed by either old-line party, in terms of meeting the real and desperate need for energy supplies in Canada.

● (2150)

I heard the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain earlier today cry out for non-partisanship in dealing with this issue. If I had to speak for the Tory party and some of the representatives within it who represent the oil cartels, I would cry for non-partisanship as well, because surely there is no defence of the position being taken by the Tory party. I recall a meeting of the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works when officials of the National Energy Board came before it and clearly outlined, by chart, the discrepancy between the supplies we had in Canada for our domestic consumption and our needs in the coming decades. One of the officials pointed out very clearly a problem which was raised by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, namely, that the supply in a decade or more from now will not be there.

I remember a spokesman for the Tory party saying at that time that he was glad the National Energy Board had shown there was no problem in terms of oil and gas supplies. Either in protecting their friends in the oil indus-