

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada have been waiting for the Government of Canada to show leadership with an energy policy for a long time. On Tuesday night we watched the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) closely as we did the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) in this House yesterday and today. I think people did so feeling that the energy policy would be a blueprint for the future, at least to the year 2000—that this was to be the financial and energy policy of our generation. As a Vancouver musician friend of mine would say, “This is it, baby, and it had better be good.”

Pericles who is not a Vancouverite but an Athenian, once said that only a few people may originate a policy, but we are all able to judge it. This afternoon I want to judge the government's policy, not so much from the point of view of a member of Parliament but from that of a typical family in my constituency. I do so in reply to the last speaker for the Liberal party. I will call these people the family from Renfrew Street because that is a street which runs through the middle of my riding. Similar families live in all the regions of Canada. They care little for the constitutional debate which has so preoccupied this House. They are insecure about their jobs, about the price of a litre of milk and, now, about the price of a litre of gasoline. They want the federal government to show leadership and to help them. In short, they are concerned about the bread and butter issues. Who can blame them?

Let me discuss the budget in terms of these headings or concerns, Mr. Speaker—prices, taxes, jobs, western development, off-oil policy, Canada's north, Canadianization and further public control of the oil industry.

Let me deal with prices. Yesterday in this House the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources made a rather remarkable statement. He said that in energy the essence of good government is to make good promises to the people. You will note he did not say good actions, but good promises. Mr. Speaker, I suspect this Liberal government was elected on the promise of cheap energy, after the Conservative party had proposed to devastate the average family in this country with high energy prices.

I was shocked to hear the former prime minister, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) attack my party for opposing their Conservative budget, that maggoty fish of a budget they brought in last December. The people promptly decided it was not good and promptly threw both the rogues out. Now they have the nerve to stand up and attack us. I noticed that the hon. member also attacked the London School of Economics. I can at least say, Mr. Speaker, that I did not flunk out of law school twice, as he did.

I want to go back to the family on Renfrew Street. Look what they get as a result of the new Conservative budget, this time called the Liberal budget. The government's own estimates show that the cost of home heating will double in three years. On page 106 of “The National Energy Program,” figures show that the cost will go from \$640 per year to \$1280 per year. If the families on Renfrew Street heat their homes

The Budget—Mr. Waddell

with natural gas they can expect a 30 cent per thousand cubic feet tax on their December bill. By 1984 the price of gasoline for the average family will double to \$1248 per year. Those are the government's figures—\$100 per month for gasoline for an average family. By 1989 it will cost \$50 to fill the tank. So much for the Liberals' cheap energy prices.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the cost of heating oil for that family will double in 1984. The price of gasoline will be nearly double in 1984. In 1989 Canadians will have to pay \$50 for a full tank of gas. It will cost \$100 to drive from Ottawa to Quebec City and back.

[*English*]

In 1989 it will cost \$100 to go to Quebec and back. You can bet that wages and pensions are not going to increase so fast. I say to my friends opposite that in a short time the family on Renfrew Street, when they feel the full impact of these prices are not going to want to put a tiger in their tank—they are going to want to put Trudeau in their tank. I use that as a general term, Mr. Speaker; I was not referring to the member from his particular riding.

We in the New Democratic Party have resisted the rise in oil prices. This is not because we do not believe in conservation, as there will be some conservation with these high prices, and not because we believe that the provinces should not get a proper rent from the resources. We do believe they are entitled to those rents. What we wanted, if the government brought in higher prices, was that they would bring in measures to protect the ordinary family, that it would act to cushion the impact of these higher oil prices on jobs, on prices, on people on low and fixed incomes.

The Minister of Finance has claimed there are no general tax increases in the budget. In fact, there are seven indirect tax increases. Just count them. Many of my constituents—the elderly, those on government assistance, the unemployed—do not earn enough to pay income tax, but they will certainly have to pay the increased energy costs.

I am sorry the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is not in the House but I see his parliamentary secretary is. I wanted to suggest to the minister of energy—I am sorry he is not in the House tonight, although his parliamentary secretary is here—that the essence of good government is honesty, and this is not an honest energy policy.

● (1740)

For example, let us look at the tax on natural gas. We are told that the government has saved us from a natural gas export tax. In British Columbia we are very happy about that—at least we are supposed to be. But the truth is there will be an export tax, and the fact is there is also a domestic tax. It is easy for the minister to say that British Columbia and Alberta will get all future price increases. But I say to the government and to its members that of the last seven National Energy Board approvals last year for increased gas exports, only two have been approved by the U.S. government. So the minister knows, and he knew before the budget, that prices are