

Energy Supplies

Similarly, the orders and reports are provided for in the bill. Orders with respect to the mandatory allocation program and the amendments to that program and the energy supplies allocation board, which is the administrative board, must provide monthly reports to the minister during an emergency as set out in the bill. It is also set out that any approvals with respect to the mandatory allocation program or amendments to it must be set out and laid before parliament for its information.

If a rationing program has to be introduced—and let us hope it never will—it, too, must be laid before parliament.

There are provisions with respect to environmental concerns, such as sulphur emissions, which provide power for the minister to reduce the environmental standards in particular, exceptional circumstances. In those situations there is provision for public hearings and a report on sulphur emissions. There are a number of other built-in provisions, safeguards, and controls in the bill which contains significant arbitrary powers.

The emergency oil-sharing arrangement of the International Energy Agency will depend for its administration and implementation largely on the multinational oil companies of the world. That is why we have specified in an amendment that Petro-Canada, the Canadian national oil company and a major policy instrument created by this government, should be attached to the standing group on emergency questions, which is the senior executive body of the International Energy Agency concerned with the administration of worldwide emergency programs. That particular group is advised by the International Advisory Board which is made up of multinational oil companies.

The emergency group will issue its instructions for implementation of the program to the office of the International Energy Agency allocation co-ordinator. He will be served by a secretariat and industry-supported advisory group. That secretariat will be working with multinational corporations; that industry supply advisory group will be composed of multinational corporations.

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I have taken a few moments to outline the particular arrangement. It is important for Canadians to understand that the multinational oil companies will be the key to the administration and the implementation of any emergency oil-sharing arrangement throughout the world. That is why we believe the Canadian policy instrument, Petro-Canada, as part of Canada's representation, should be associated with the executive body which will be making decisions. In that way we can be sure that decisions which are taken are not taken just for the benefit of others but are taken for the benefit of Canada.

We were reminded recently of how an international company thought it would decide what was best for Canada; it took a decision that was best for somebody else. I am referring to the Exxon diversion of oil from Venezuela. The official opposition has taken the position that maybe the international companies do not always perform in the best interests of Canada. In this connection I am referring to remarks made a

few nights ago by the hon. member from Northumberland-Durham. Maybe right now they are not looking after our best interests but this is not the time, he said, to introduce Petro-Canada to look after Canada's interests. He implied that we should continue to be happy and accept the decisions of international companies—"let them decide what is best for us."

That stand is not acceptable to the Canadian government. But that position is consistent with the position of the Leader of the Opposition who, as recently as last Sunday morning, in a broadcast on CBC radio stated that if he were to form the government and become Prime Minister, he would take action against Petro-Canada, the policy instrument set up to deal with Canadian energy priorities. On earlier occasions he has talked about winding it down, getting rid of it, selling parts of it, or in one way or another emasculating it, but he has now said more than that. He has said that Canada does not need an energy policy instrument like Petro-Canada and that he would get rid of the policy instrument function. I believe his words were, "We would move out of the policy instrument area."

The Leader of the Opposition has not faced up to the fact that over 90 per cent of this strategic industry is controlled by foreign corporations. I do not think he has even faced up to the fact that the oil industry is a strategic industry for Canada. I suggest he has ignored the question until it is now too late. One has seen the unseemly scrambling that the hon. member has gone through recently trying to put together an energy policy which has been described by the critics as a pathetic effort. It has been ridiculed by those who are familiar with the energy situation in this country.

I commend the Energy Supplies Emergency Act to the House of Commons and to the Canadian people. I would like to conclude by saying that while I recognize the official opposition do not agree with the government's position on energy questions, or on this particular bill, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) said in his remarks during debate in this House that the Ontario government does not support this bill. He went on to imply that the Alberta government does not support this bill. He went further than that and said the Canadian people will not support this bill. I do not think he has a very good understanding of how the Canadian people see the energy situation right now.

I issue a challenge to him. If he and his party believe that, let them have the courage of their convictions, let them vote against this bill. This will be an honest position for a party which has shown so little interest in these questions. After having voted against the bill, then I would suggest it might be a good time for us to turn to the Canadian people and say, "Here is the issue. The opposition has made it quite clear how it feels about it. You know how we feel about it. You choose."

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I am one of those incredible members of the opposition. However, I find it even more incredible that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) took virtually all of his speech to condemn us. One must certainly ask the question why a Liberal government, which has governed for some 16 years, at