

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

Mr. Speaker, I think that this matter brings out the true nature of the Canadian fact. Inasmuch as we fail to understand as a whole all the factors involved in this, the farther we get from real solutions. I tried to show—

**Mr. Wagner:** The hon. member should come back to the subject.

**Mr. Olivier:** Right, I should come back to the next, as the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe suggests, but I would like to point out also that it is because I simply do not wish to waste anybody's time.

**Mr. Wagner:** The hon. member manages well in the laborious reading of his text.

**Mr. Olivier:** Yes. I am doing alright and I will continue.

**Mr. Wagner:** To me that is shorthand. I do not want to read it.

**Mr. Olivier:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member does not want to read it he can either leave or stay, one or the other. I could also remind him to read the discussions he had on bilingualism. Several members of his party disowned the French language in this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, to try and illustrate that complexity suffice it to mention first the differences in economic interests. On the one hand, we have the producers who are caught between the depletion of their resources, the necessity to ensure quality and quantity in trade supply, and the responsibility towards all Canadians.

On the other hand, consumers see prices skyrocket and are looking for a substitute to oil products. Finally, what needs to be done to solve the problem?

Second, we have the aspect of international relations where recent changes in all international trade networks certainly played a capital role in the present situation. Needless to go over the events in the Middle East and it is certainly not with the explanations from the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe that we are going to understand anything to what is happening there. However, Canada is at a road crossing where the interest of its citizens must be balanced against the need to preserve strong international friendships.

Third, the federative nature of this country adds to the complications. We are actually touching an important subject as well as the complex problem of every area in this country.

Fourth, the question of enterprise is indeed questioned. Some suggest that resources so vital as these should not be left at the mercy of a competitive market. On the other hand, others are crying pitifully for the state not to meddle with commercial activities regulations. In fact, this is the position of the Progressive Conservative Party which merely wants to protect the interests of big business and does not give a damn for consumers.

We must realize that our government, while taking into account every aspect of the problem, is constantly faced with an opposition which enjoys trying to topple the government. They crave for power in a sickening way, these people. They play at threatening the existence of this government. One can appreciate the usefulness of this

[Mr. Olivier.]

bill and especially the value of the minister who sponsored it.

**Mr. Wagner:** Which one is it?

**Mr. Olivier:** Apparently the Leader of the Opposition and hon. members of his party have fallen victims to the temptation of taking advantage of this problem to improve their credibility with the public.

• (1640)

I think that they did the opposite, Mr. Speaker, and that their utterly ambiguous position and their lack of policy have involved an ever increasing downgrading of that party's credibility. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they blame the government for its attitude towards the United States and they do not understand that this government is primarily concerned by the needs of Canadians, and they blame the minister for what they call a lack of national policy, while they have nothing at all to propose.

**Mr. Wagner:** Shame!

**Mr. Olivier:** In a situation where a shortage is taking place, can we satisfy both the interests of foreign countries, however friendly they may be, and home requirements? And after that we are accused of not being flexible enough, both in our positions towards the United States and with regard to Canadians.

This means calling for priority consideration of two matters that are incompatible. In that regard, I suggest that the government—by the way, Mr. Speaker I would like to outline that I do not necessarily have \$200,000 or \$300,000 to have my speeches prepared in order to take the floor every day and make myself known by everybody—was right to opt for the Canadian people's interest. This choice was shown at the level of the security of supplies and of the price stability. These gentlemen would like to see prices increase everywhere throughout Canada. They said eastern Canada is not going to be the only one to pay a little more, the west must pay even more. That is what they want. That is their policy.

As for supplies, the minister announced a series of steps that will certainly contribute to ease the situation in the eastern part of this country. These are short-range measures that will have some results as early as this winter. Rationalizing of oil industry, long-term planning will not solve the immediate problems of the people from Quebec and the Maritimes, should a heating oil shortage occur this winter.

And the government, far from losing itself in intellectual arguments, was fast to respond. It has encouraged the voluntary saving of energy by consumers. In addition, it has made sure that all possible means will be taken to send maximum reserves in the east. I do not think that the members opposite have made more constructive suggestions up to now. I have not seen any. When one reads the speeches which have been delivered, one realized that it is merely politicking.

**Mr. Wagner:** The reading of that text is laborious.

**Mr. Olivier:** As for price stability, this is where the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) has per-