

course of this afternoon I was looking at a number of statements that had been made over the years. These go back to late 1980 and early 1981, the early days after the energy policy was announced.

This shattered industry did not just happen. It was not brought to its knees by the oil glut, high interest rates or weak international economies. These have been factors. Let us go back to 1980 just after the energy agreement was announced. Data Resources, a very well qualified organization, said that the National Energy Program will be extremely costly for this economy. Let me just quote:

—the costs of the NEP would include foregone economic growth—

We have seen that.

—lower real incomes—

We have seen that.

—lost employment—

We have seen that.

—and a delay in reaching oil self-sufficiency.

Others have commented on this as well. The president of the Toronto-Dominion Bank said, "The energy program could lead to a national economic disaster." Darcy McKeough, the former treasurer and energy minister in the Ontario government—

An hon. Member: Non-partisan.

Mr. Wilson: He is a non-partisan gentleman now. He said:

—this country is embarked on courses of action which are destructive in their impact, no matter how superficially attractive they may be in their objectives.

He was pointing out that the attractions of Canadianization are very beguiling. There is a great attraction, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said.

We recognized the importance of Canadianization and brought this forward in our policies before the Liberal Party even understood the importance of Canadianization. They were still pushing the industry into the hands of multinationals and foreign owners. We recognized the importance of it. We also recognized that it has to be done in a way that can be accepted by the marketplace, rather than have Canadian ownership forced on it. I will come back to that in a minute. Others have commented on this as well. The Canadian Institute of Real Estate Companies said there is a fear that the energy program will increase, rather than decrease, Canada's dependence on insecure sources of foreign crude. Another person who commented on this that I would like to refer to is Wayne Clendenning of Richardson Securities. He felt that the energy program ought to be changed substantially.

All of these gentlemen, very knowledgeable people in the oil and gas industry, called for these changes in late 1980 and early 1981. Why did we have to wait a full 18 months before the minister saw fit to make a change? The main reason is his inflexibility and arrogant attitude. He said to everyone who told him that he was wrong that he was right and no one would cause him to change? No one could tell him he was wrong.

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It was only when the industry was literally brought to its knees, with 50 to 60 companies coming to Ottawa again and again to plead with the minister to please get some sense into his head and make the necessary changes to bring about some return of health to the industry, that he took some action.

I wish to make some brief concluding remarks. I am glad the minister has returned to the chamber to hear them. Let me say to him that the greatest contribution he could make to the energy future of this country would be to resign.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2110)

Mr. Clark: We give unanimous consent.

Mr. Wilson: The display by the minister tonight, practically breaking his arm patting himself on the back, with all the self congratulations that he could muster about the great things of the energy program, shows that he still does not understand the damage that he has wrought upon this industry and the changes that are still necessary to bring that industry back to health.

Mr. Baker (Neapean-Carleton): His eyes and mind are closed.

Mr. Wilson: He should resign and let someone else bring in these policies that will try to undo some of the terrible damage that he has brought upon this industry. He has alienated large parts of western Canada. He has done tremendous damage to the fabric of this country.

Mr. Clark: He doesn't care.

Mr. Wilson: There is 18 months of delay that he has let go by while the feelings of Canadians in western Canada have become more and more concerned about the impact of central Canadian policies, federal government policies, as they affect western Canada.

Mr. Clark: Lalonde doesn't care.

Mr. Wilson: Finally, he has set back self-sufficiency probably for a full decade. That is the nature of the damage that he has done to this industry.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Shame!

Mr. Wilson: There is nothing more stupid than a brilliant person who is too arrogant, too stupid and too inflexible to understand the mistakes that he has made and to bring about the changes that are necessary to undo those mistakes. That is the nature of the minister we have today, and that is why I say to him that he should resign.

An hon. Member: Resign.

An hon. Member: Right on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, in closing, let us look at the three elements of the National Energy Policy. The first, Canadianization. The Canadianization policy as it has been