

industries in Canada I am left with a greater sense of despair and frustration. The government has most clearly implied the belief that nationalization or, if you will, socialism, is better for us than a system based on free enterprise. What will happen next? On what industry will the government of Canada next implement its so-called Canadianization scheme? Will it take over British Columbia's forest industry, the single most important industry to my province and, indeed, to all of Canada? Following the route upon which they have now embarked, I see very clear signs of something of that nature in store for British Columbians, other western Canadians and all of Canada.

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I stand here to make an appeal on behalf of my constituents and all British Columbians who wish to see an end to frustration. I hope the government will recognize the serious implications of the measure for which they seek approval. The policy adopted by the federal government states that there is a desire to secure supply and ensure energy stability in an unstable energy world. Is energy security increased by the cancellation of the Cold Lake project or the cutback in exploration by Canadian independents? Is it secure when today in a small community, Grande Prairie, Alberta, of four Canadian petroleum companies, one reports a 40 per cent lay-off, the second a 95 per cent lay-off, the third a 75 per cent lay-off and the fourth a 100 per cent lay-off?

Exploration budgets are being cut. This is reported daily. Drill rigs are moving to the United States, and history tells us they will not come back. The government is prepared to allocate money to Saudi Arabia, but not to its own partners in confederation. This confuses me. I wonder what is happening on the government side when such terrible situations face the Canadian public.

Canadian independent oil companies have been hit extremely hard by the recent budget, particularly through the 8 per cent de facto royalty. The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), with his energy package, has made it possible for Canadian companies to make more money in the United States than in Canada. Canadians are being asked to pay huge increases in prices for over-all energy use. The government will reap the benefits of this, not the people of Canada.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in his opening statement on the national energy program said:

We must not let our energy strength become a source of internal weakness. Most Canadians are aware of the strains created within the federation by domestic energy pricing and revenue-sharing issues.

If he is aware of this situation, I would ask the minister why his leader is prepared to put Canadian dollars in foreign economies. Why will the government not invest its oil dollars in Canadian oil? If he does not want our energy strength to become a source of internal weakness, why is the federal government not prepared to negotiate a fair pricing system with the producing provinces to see that our energy strength does not cause further internal weakness?

Petroleum Administration Act

This minister has also stated that the outlook for the next decade is not encouraging. Well, I must agree with him on that point because, with his attitude, and the attitude of the government of which he is a part, our future is not encouraging. Our energy richness should strengthen our nation, but the government has weakened our nation with its unilateral and autocratic actions.

We are an energy-rich nation, with new technological techniques being introduced daily. Canada can become a world leader in oil production and refining. Look at a cross-section of the whole Canadian scene. We have capacity and the capability to produce enough oil and natural gas to supply all of the western world, if there were co-operation between all levels of government. We have an agricultural industry second to none, an industry that can feed the nations of the world. We have a forest industry which, with proper control, will serve Canadians for generations to come. Canada has the potential to be one of the strongest economic forces in the modern world. With so much potential, why are we wallowing in the morass of this debate? If the past Liberal governments had effectively planned an energy strategy, we would not be in this position today.

This brings me to a point the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) was making earlier when giving this House a history lesson. He was expounding on the wonderful programs the Liberal party had introduced and carried out with regard to unemployment insurance. I wonder if he recalls Mr. Diefenbaker's roads to resources program and the fact that a Liberal Government decided against continuing it? Will he admit, as he indeed should, that if the Government of Canada had continued with that program, our northern area would now be open and perhaps we would not need his precious unemployment insurance programs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCuish: The Clark government was committed to an energy policy that would bring Canada to a position of energy self-sufficiency by 1990. Our policy was right, and I truly believe that many members opposite have realized as much by proceeding with a number of our measures.

I have spoken about internal problems within the government's energy proposals and their inability to come to grips with the real solutions that lie before it. Colin Beale stated in a newsletter he published in Vancouver:

If Prime Minister Trudeau goes ahead with his plan to nationalize one or more of the U.S. oil companies now operating in Canada—

Some New York analysts call it confiscation.

—how do you think Reagan would react? He might just retaliate with some sort of bite out of our lumber market here... And what would it mean for our industry if Reagan opens up some of the U.S. national forests to the domestic lumber industry?

Every time I see measures such as this imposed by the government, I wonder what they will take their next run at and where it will all end. Frankly it scares me.

The reaction from Canadian industry itself proves that the government has proceeded on a misguided course of destruc-