

Oil Export Tax

we are. Let me say that the only policy introduced in this House is one giving the government the right to control and to tax, without first explaining to the people of Canada exactly what will be the consequences and the effects of those actions. We do not know what is the grass root attitude towards the policy. What will be the effect upon Canada if the policy is implemented? What will be the benefit to Canada of the law, as enacted? What will be the opportunity for the provinces to state their case and obtain their just rights? There is no way to tell what the effects of the policy will be. As I said before, I am deeply disappointed that virtually all we have received has been the philosophical point of view regarding what might be done, what should be done and what can be done, but we have not been told emphatically or concretely what will be done.

We have been told that tens of millions of dollars will be collected weekly. We have not been told of what benefit this will be to Canada. The only benefit that would seem to accrue to Canada is this: more money will be brought into Canada, which in itself is a benefit as I acknowledge. But what is the rest of the benefit? There has not been associated with this tax and with this legislation any suggestion that we are going to seek oil, that we are going to facilitate the distribution of oil, that we are to facilitate the exploration for oil or that we are to harness the resources of Canada and try to relieve the situation in one year, two years or even six years. Nothing concrete has been put before us. There has been no suggestion of substituting one form of energy for another, or of developing new opportunities for energy. There has merely been a concentration of power in the hands of government, under a dark cloak, purely for the edification of the government. The government wants to say, "Look at how we are trying?" It does this so that its public relations people can tell all in this land of the importance of the legislation which it has brought forth. But, when members of the government are asked to expound the benefits of this legislation directly, area by area in Canada, they become as confused as the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras). That hon. member showed that he has no concept of the general policy of his party, and he cannot put forward a policy for himself.

I was interested in listening to the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. LaSalle), who suggested that Quebec was being ill served by this legislation. He was another member from Quebec who said that the province is being ill served by the present policies of this government. His was a much more logical, proper and obvious approach for a Quebec member to take. I say to other members from Quebec that unless the government will implement some unknown factor which may be behind this legislation, Quebec will suffer with the Atlantic area. It will pay prices it cannot afford. Further, we are being led by a Prime Minister who comes from that province. He is selling the province down the river without considering the realities for eastern Canada. May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. McCain.]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

MANPOWER—LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ALLOCATION OF FUNDS,—GRANT CRITERIA—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, on November 9, as recorded at page 7697 of *Hansard*, I asked the following question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras):

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of apparent inequities in the allocation of LIP funds to constituencies, would he be prepared to ask the House for a reference to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration of the matter of the allocation by constituency of funds for LIP projects and the criteria which have been employed in making those allocations, and would he agree to appear before the committee and provide that committee with a list of the allocations made?

The minister replied to the effect that he would be appearing before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates and would make that information known there. I then asked the minister the following question:

Can the minister assure us if he makes an appearance before the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee during consideration of the supplementary estimates of his department, that the figures, constituency by constituency, of the amounts of money and the criteria will be made available to the members of the committee and that his officials will be there to defend their position?

The minister replied:

Mr. Speaker, that would be my intention. I point out that the expenditures under last year's Local Initiatives Program were made available in response to a question on the order paper, and that is what I would intend.

Since that time I have been looking for last year's expenditures, which the minister indicated would be made available. They were not made available at that time, nor were they made available later. Further, having looked at this year's allocations, I have done my very best to make heads or tails of the rationale behind them. I find it very strange that the bulk of the large grants to constituencies were made to those of Liberal cabinet ministers. I cannot claim that the allocations were made solely on political grounds because the smallest per capita grant in Manitoba was made to the constituency of the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay), a Liberal member. However, when you look at Winnipeg, Vancouver, northern Ontario or Toronto, you see that the second largest grants are almost invariably allocated to constituencies of Liberal cabinet ministers.

● (2200)

According to Manpower officials, funds were initially allocated to a province as a whole. That allocation was made in relation to the over-all unemployment figures of the provinces. They were made, roughly speaking, to the province as a whole, in the same proportions as in 1972-73. Within the province, statistics on unemployment and population were used to calculate allocations on the basis