central Canada, and as they wither in the west and east so does central Canada.

The production manager of Mobil Oil of Canada recently told delegates to a Halifax mining conference that markets will have to be developed in Quebec and Ontario once offshore gas comes into production. The maritimes have offshore natural gas coming into production. Ontario can supply only .2 per cent of her total energy requirements from her own gas sources.

Premier Bill Davis of Ontario is quoted in *The Globe and Mail* as saying the Ontario government must "actively advance the interests of the people of Ontario." Is it not apparent to everyone in this House that while doing this in Ontario we are advancing the interests of the people of the maritimes? Co-operation, not confrontation over resources, is what the federal government needs to achieve.

Gulf Canada filed a brief with the National Energy Board a short time ago stating that "Canada has only a remote chance of becoming independent of imported oil" in the 1990s. Gulf Oil stated that if appropriate government policy decisions are not made soon, Canada will need to import up to 500,000 barrels per day throughout the 1990s and the cost of these imports could be $15 billion a year.

Of imported oil, Imperial Oil said in its brief to the National Energy Board that:

—continuation of today's uncertain investment environment relative to energy pricing, revenue sharing and the regulatory system will mean that investments will not be made to achieve self-sufficiency.

I have been in touch with Imperial and have discussed the critical nature of this situation in very real and human terms as well as harsh financial ones. The Cold Lake project alone, for example, is accounting for $10 million a month in running, development and support costs. Imperial reckons that this can continue at the outside for only four months under present Liberal government policy. When that time runs out, all the skilled labour and technical research staff will leave Canada to be flung over all parts and corners of the world, wherever there is a climate of expansion and co-operation.

Turning once again for a moment to Ontario, the area which possibly has the most to gain or the most to lose in the long term in this whole question, I doubt if there is one industry or service in Ontario that is not affected by the oil industry. Non-residential construction, for example, accounts for about one-tenth of Canada's gross national product and is one of the few areas of growth anticipated in the 1981 economy. As the vice-president for Stelco of Hamilton said in Toronto the other day, as reported in *The Globe and Mail:*

"For this growth to happen, governments must allow the price of Canadian oil to approach world levels and remove the many regulatory roadblocks to petroleum and natural gas development".

The people of Ontario and all people of Canada are anxiously awaiting the forthcoming budget which they hope will restore national confidence, national will and true national pride in the opportunities that await them. The president of the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada said recently:

Lack of consumer confidence is our main concern and the forthcoming budget can be a very important element in restoring confidence.

Uncertainty about our national energy goals cannot continue. As the Alberta chamber of commerce recently pointed out, Shell's Alsands project alone will inject 23.5 billion into Canada's gross national product; 6.2 billion of that would accrue directly to Ontario. The impact of the Alsands project alone on Ontario industry is enough to dispel the suspicious doubts about provincial motives on the part of any Canadian in central Canada. For example, $800 million would go to the iron and steel industry in Hamilton and other places; $370 million would go to metal fabrication and machinery in Toronto; $740 million would go to manufacturing and processing; $325 million would go to transportation equipment in Ontario; $370 million would go to finance industries; $750 million would go to trade and services, and so on. Naturally this massive infusion would spill over into other areas of the economy and stimulate consumer spending.

We do not even dream at the moment of a producing well that might be found somewhere under the 5.1 million acres presently under exploration in Hudson Bay whose coastline is shared by Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. That would make some provincial governments dance to a much different tune.

I need not tell anyone in this House that Canada possesses enormous potential for the development of all her energy sources, particularly gas and oil. It cannot be reiterated often enough that Canada's industries, particularly those in central Canada, are ready and willing to move ahead. High inflation, unemployment, a massive trade deficit, and a national debt which now exceeds $100 billion demand action by this government. They demand more than the sanctimonious, highfalutin camouflage which this government presently is indulging in. This tries the patience of the country and it tries the patience of members of this House, and I can tell you that our growing dependence on foreign oil is far more humiliating than the alleged humiliation we suffered on the few occasions—very few occasions—when this country has had to involve Westminster in the last century.

● (2040)

It is humiliating for a forward-looking country to be the highest per capita consumer of gasoline when all other countries in the western world are making conservation a national priority.

The previous Conservative government had the courage and the vision to put forward a budget which sought to confront the trauma which is felt when habits and lifestyles of individuals are changed in a very visible but ultimately not very significant area, at the gas pumps. The Liberals took advantage of this momentary trauma and exploited the immediate fears of Canadians by pretending that their long-term ones did not exist. As the budget last December stated, low prices have led to excessive consumption, and Canadians pay proportionately less now for gasoline than they did 25 years ago. Consumption of gasoline over the first nine months of 1979 was up 4.3 per cent and down by 4 per cent in the United States.