

the parliament of Canada, to negate provincial priorities in the event of any energy crisis. The bill would, in fact, give the government so much power that it could invade areas of undisputed provincial jurisdiction. One of the most important problems facing the people of eastern Canada, the price of home heating oil, is not covered by this bill. The government's unwillingness to deal with the price to the consumer reflects its view on an incomes policy. We have heard that view many times since January. The Economic Council of Canada has stated that the major causes of inflation in Canada arise from sources within Canada, but this government refuses to look at any sort of incomes policy.

Bill C-236 implies that an energy crisis exists. Mr. Speaker, let us correct that. There is no lack of conventional energy in Canada, only the means of transporting or conveying the various forms of energy from source to the consumer. The bill should say, in effect, that an energy delivery crisis exists. We might have some confidence in the proposed energy supplies allocation board if it were an independent board, but in fact clause 10 of Bill C-236 provides:

The board shall act under the instructions of the Governor in Council and report to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources from time to time upon its activities under this act.

As anyone can easily see, the Governor in Council, or the cabinet, has all the power. The energy supplies allocation board has no power, independent of cabinet.

This bill applies not only to petroleum or petroleum products as defined in the bill, but to products manufactured wholly or in part from petroleum, natural gas, coal and any product of natural gas or coal that can be used as fuel and also electric power. Here, we are dealing with a condition existing in Canada that is caused not from a shortage of petroleum or natural gas, or energy, but from lack of transportation facilities to enable petroleum and natural gas to be delivered to the market. Here, we have Bill C-236 containing powers away beyond the gravity of the problem. I wonder if the minister has seen the offer of the Canadian Trucking Association to deliver oil on a 24-hour around the clock basis from Sarnia to Montreal. The quantities that they would be able to deliver far exceed what a pipeline can deliver at the present time.

The other evening at about six o'clock the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tabled a ways and means motion concerning the collection and allocation of the export tax being levied by the federal government on oil exported from Canada. The minister not only wants Bill C-236, but he wants the bill that would follow the ways and means motion so that he will have a club in either hand when dealing with the first ministers in late January. With this legislation in his hand, I wonder whether it is going to be a conference or just an academic exercise. I think it is really important, at a time of high tension like this, that the confidence of the provincial ministers is kept foremost in the minds of the federal negotiators.

● (1750)

You will note that the western provinces are talking about a quid pro quo as part of any agreement on oil. With a diminishing resource, the western premiers are obviously looking to the future and would like to see an industrial

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complex in each province, to complement industrial and technical skills developed by the oil industry. Again, we must look to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. With no industrial strategy for Canada, the prospects for agreement with first ministers in January based on any quid pro quo for industrial complexes within provinces in January is not too good at this point in time.

Another interesting aspect of this so-called energy crisis—and the government is calling it a crisis—is to be found in an article written by Dian Cohen on September 10, the headline of which reads, "Energy Crisis May Be Scapegoat". The article mentions that we can look to the energy crisis, so called, to be leaned on by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to cover the lack of positive legislation to combat inflation and deal with serious trade problems that are ahead of us.

One of the serious problems we face in Canada, as a result of no real oil policy—and there is still time to act—concerns the future of the numerous Canadian companies engaged in drilling for oil. Those who are drilling in Canada today are doing so on blind faith and on commitments made many months ago, mostly to large oil companies. We have about 100,000 people employed in drilling for oil in Canada. Most of these crews belong to small wholly-owned Canadian companies which have contracted for drilling to the large oil companies. If we do not have a firm long-range policy, we stand a good chance of losing much of this expertise. Even now, many of these crews are moving to the United States, where the government has laid down ground rules which enable these companies to know where they are going. These companies have in their ranks some of the most experienced drilling crews in the world. It would be a shame to lose these people, their expertise and their knowledge. Canadian oil drilling crews can be found all over the world today. We stand to lose more men with such experience to Britain, the United States, Viet Nam, or other countries, because the government chooses to play constitutional power politics with the provinces.

Mr. Paproski: Because the government chooses to play Russian roulette.

Mr. Kempling: Russian roulette: call it what you will. I would have hoped that the government would make available more than \$40 million for the development of the tar sands. Certainly, we have heard nothing to speak of from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce regarding this project. I would have thought there would have been negotiations with Alberta with regard to a world-sized petrochemical industry in future—

Mr. Paproski: The minister does not negotiate; he just tells.

Mr. Kempling: He tells, that is right. I should have thought that there might have been negotiations in that area, in view of future demand for the products of the petrochemical industry. I would have thought that some consideration would have been given to this as part of the quid pro quo. This could have been done, instead of engaging in ham-handed tactics such as those in which the