

*Oral Questions*

losses in Canadian oil supply, in Canadian real economic growth, in Canadian real wages, and in Canadian jobs, losses that are both permanent and avoidable. The minister will also know that these findings are similar to those from the Economic Council of Canada report.

In light of the mounting evidence of the dangerous economic effects and energy effects upon Canada of the National Energy Program, is the minister now prepared to announce that he will make major changes in that program?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, what is clear from some of those studies—and particularly another study by the Alberta Energy Conservation Board, to which the Leader of the Opposition has not referred—is that a serious problem arises from the lack of agreement at the present time between the producing provinces and the federal government. The Alberta Energy Conservation Board study, in particular, indicates that the major impact of loss in terms of self-sufficiency during the eighties would come from the decisions of the government of Alberta in not approving the tar sands plants, and from reducing supply to the rest of Canadians.

That is the major impact on energy security in the country over this decade. I hope that through discussions and negotiations over the next few months, we will be able to resolve those differences and ensure energy security in this country. However, I remind the hon. member of this study of the government of Alberta which indicates that it will have to bear the brunt of the responsibility for the shortage that we may have during this decade.

**An hon. Member:** Black is white.

**Mr. Clark:** The minister has answered a question that he was not asked. All of us agree that the intransigence of the federal government has led to a failure of agreement with the producing provinces, which is one of the causes of problems right now.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** The point of these three major independent economic studies is that it is abundantly clear that elements of the government's own National Energy Program—having nothing to do with agreement with the producing provinces—are going to cost us Canadian oil, cost us Canadian jobs, cost us Canadian security, and cost us increases in real wages in this country.

In light of that devastating economic impact upon the people and the security of Canada, I repeat my question to the minister; will he consider making major changes in those parts of his program which all economic analysts agree are going to do damage to Canada?

**Mr. Lalonde:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is still over-stating matters. He refers to "all economic analysts". I have just referred him to a very authoritative study made by the government of Alberta itself, the Alberta Energy Conser-

vation Board, which has indicated that the impact of the National Energy Program, compared to the impact of the Alberta government decisions, was very small.

● (1420)

It is clear that we need to have agreements, and soon. So far as intransigence is concerned, I remind the right hon. member that we have already made several adjustments to the National Energy Program affecting industry. Most of the studies to which my right hon. friend is referring do not include the changes we have already included since October 28. I also remind my right hon. friend that I have written to the government of Alberta suggesting early meetings and that I have been turned down by that government, which says it wants to receive reports from its officials. The Government of Canada has shown a lot of flexibility since October 28.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

REQUEST FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the minister knows full well that the changes which have been made to the National Energy Program to date have been minor and relatively insignificant. He also knows full well that the economic studies to which I have referred indicate that it is the program itself which is causing the problem for Canada's future.

Let me ask the minister a question about one of the agencies of the federal government reporting to him, the National Energy Board. The National Energy Board is now conducting a study into the supply and demand situation in Canada. After the National Energy Program came down, that board asked for revised estimates by the companies which were doing exploration. All of those estimates indicate that Canada will be in much more trouble as a result of the National Energy Program than we were in before. Since it is important that the House of Commons and the people of Canada be given the full facts from an agency like the National Energy Board, I ask the minister whether he will delay passage of elements of the National Energy Program until there has been a report by the National Energy Board on the supply and demand situation in Canada.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I have already indicated to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the Canadian government has shown a lot of flexibility during the negotiations, that it has already substantially amended the Canadian Energy Program in that it offered to have with the Alberta government discussions before the regrettable cutbacks of last weekend were implemented.

As for the review undertaken by the National Energy Board, the hearings have now been completed. I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that the views expressed