

The Address—Mr. Douglas

provinces, to start development of the oil sands, with a very substantial component of public ownership. The federal government can offer inducements to the provincial governments to participate in joint ventures with it and the oil companies, if those companies are kept in a minority equity position, in developing this vast reservoir of oil which can be the salvation of Canada.

We, in this country, sold our birthright with regard to the production of conventional oil and conventional gas. Our predecessors might have pleaded ignorance; we cannot. In view of our experience of how the world oil cartel has exploited both producing and consuming countries alike, posterity will never forgive us if we allow the Athabasca tar sands to fall under foreign control.

It will be argued that the development of these sands will take large amounts of capital. I say, Mr. Speaker, that if capital is a problem, then we should postpone any consideration for constructing the Mackenzie pipeline. With proper conservation, we will not need gas from the Mackenzie Delta for another ten years or more. The Prime Minister's commitment to go ahead with the Mackenzie pipeline, made on September 6, was purely an attempt to conciliate the United States. Remember, 82 per cent of the drilling in the Arctic produces American gas, only 18 per cent produces Canadian gas. The only purpose for spending \$5 billion building that pipeline is for supplying natural gas to the United States. Canada probably has between 23 and 25 years of gas reserves. If we needed to look into the Mackenzie pipeline proposal for gas to meet Canadian needs, we could begin those studies about ten years from now.

I suggest that the \$5 billion which we would be called upon to spend on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline would be better spent in developing the Athabasca oil sands. By building one plant every 18 months with an average capacity of 125,000 barrels per day it is just possible that we could have sufficient oil on stream, if we conserve our consumption and our exports, to meet our own requirements in 1980. I say that anything less than the development of the Athabasca oil sands and heavy oil deposits in Saskatchewan under Canadian ownership and control will be a betrayal of Canada and an insult to posterity.

Certain proposals have been made by Mr. Herman Khan of the Hudson Institute and his think tank. Since we do not have to take advice from Mr. Kahn, nobody worries much about it. But I am alarmed to note that his proposal was picked up by the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer). The minister has been going around this country saying that it is going to take \$20 billion to build ten plants in the Athabasca oil sands; that we should do that by borrowing the money in the United States, Japan, Germany and wherever we can get it; that we should bring in Korean labour or labour from wherever you can get it so long as it is cheap; and that we should pay these countries back, says the Minister of Supply and Services, in oil.

What does this mean, Mr. Speaker? It means that the Minister of Supply and Services is advocating the alienation and the hypothecation to other countries of oil from the oil sands of Alberta. Those oil sands contain reserves larger than the oil reserves of the Middle East. He would hypothecate that oil to foreign corporations. It means,

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secondly, that \$20 billion of that oil will be hypothecated to other countries and not to the Canadian people, to whom the oil belongs.

Surely this is a preposterous proposal. But the government says, "Ah, the Minister of Supply and Services is speaking on his own, as a private individual." Mr. Speaker, since when do cabinet ministers, members of the Privy Council, speak on their own? A minister cannot separate himself and say that he speaks as a private individual and not as a minister of the Crown when he discusses public questions. The Prime Minister has a responsibility to this country either to tell the people of Canada that the policies being enunciated by the Minister of Supply and Services are the government's policies or to tell the minister to shut up. It is just possible, however, that the minister is not speaking out of turn. It is possible the minister is flying a kite for the government. It is possible the government has in mind one of the grand sell-outs which have characterized the Liberal party down through the decades.

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I say the Prime Minister has a responsibility before many days have passed in this House to tell the people of this country who is going to develop the Athabasca oil sands and under what conditions. What steps does the government intend to take to ensure there will be a public component in the development of those oil sands? What steps does the government intend to take to make sure that the control of this last great reservoir of oil will not fall into foreign hands as have both energy resources and other nonrenewable resources?

I want to say in closing that the New Democratic Party will oppose with all the power at its command any step to turn over this remaining oil and gas potential to foreign monopolies. A recent Gallup poll showed that an overwhelming majority of the Canadian people want Canadian ownership and public ownership of our oil industry. If the government fails to take steps along this line, I say that they will lose and deserve to lose, the confidence of the Canadian people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) and other members in congratulating Their Excellencies, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Léger, on the assumption of their very high function. I also join previous speakers in complimenting the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) who seconded a motion to move the address and, of course, the original mover, the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery), who gave such an eloquent address.

My reason for speaking during this debate is to make reference to the government's program relative to the promotion of equality of opportunity for women generally in our Canadian society and to enlarge upon references made in that connection in the Speech from the Throne. In particular, I want to concentrate on the government's program to improve the status of women.

We regard it as a challenge to the government and to society as a whole, to work toward an evolution of roles to enable both males and females to play fully their part in