

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

of its problems started when it got a Progressive Conservative government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member will agree with the Chair that the issue he has referred to is far from being a point of order. It is a simple argument. I must therefore return to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

[English]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we have just witnessed the presentation of Liberal policy made solely to please the NDP, with the obvious purpose in mind of avoiding defeat on the vote we are to have on Monday.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: No, we want an election.

An hon. Member: Let's have one now.

Mr. Hees: I am told that the two parties, the Liberals and the NDP, have worked very hard in the last two days to put this policy together. It is interesting to hear this afternoon the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) make a presentation of policy which right up until this moment the Liberal party steadfastly, again and again, refused to adopt. Now, all of a sudden, to please the NDP in the shadow of a vote on Monday night, they give us this new Liberal policy. I suggest that the words we have heard this afternoon were those of Pierre Trudeau, but the music was that of David Lewis.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: This kind of policy making which changes from day to day has, unfortunately, been slowing down decisions of the oil and gas industry which they must make immediately if there is to be a satisfactory expansionary exploration program for the additional energy resources we will need so that this country may become truly self-sufficient in the very near future and for the months and years ahead. It is about that I wish to speak for the few minutes I have available to me this afternoon, and I will then conclude my remarks at eight o'clock.

I want to talk about what is necessary to bring about self-sufficiency in energy in this country. This can only be done by bringing about conditions which make it possible for the only people who can find the oil and gas reserves in this country, that is the oil and gas industry, to expand their exploratory program and, in so doing, produce the additional energy we will need to satisfy not only our present needs, but those of the future which will be far greater than today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: In the situation that has developed as a result of the Arab-Israeli war, we came to see very clearly just how dependent this country has become on not only the Arab oil producing countries but on the multinational corporations which handle the offshore oil we have been using up to the present time. It has become painfully obvious that we can no longer allow this country to be subject to decisions made outside this country over which we have no control, and which can have such a disastrous

[Mr. Fortin.]

effect not only on this country but on the people who live here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Thank you for your support, George.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: I listened this afternoon to the Prime Minister outlining some specific measures that should be adopted by this government. This is the overture of soothing approach orchestrated to please the NDP in respect of matters the government has refused steadfastly to introduce up to this moment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: We heard the Prime Minister this afternoon talk about the great necessity, of which everybody knows, of building that Montreal pipeline without further delay. The very first thing that must be done is to acquire rights-of-way so that the pipeline can be laid, but we heard nothing about that this afternoon.

An hon. Member: You weren't listening.

Mr. Hees: The Prime Minister has not the slightest idea of what is to be done. There is no plan for acquiring the rights-of-way; there is no plan for acquiring the steel and there is no plan for building that Montreal extension of the pipeline that we hear about as something to please the NDP in advance of Monday night.

We have heard reference to the adoption of another position of the official opposition in respect of building this Montreal pipeline. It was in 1969, four years ago, that the official opposition first started urging this government to build that Montreal pipeline as a means of making this country not nearly so dependent as we are on Arab and foreign produced oil. At our policy convention in Niagara Falls, at that time, we said that as a government the Conservative party would "strengthen the National Oil Policy by including a pipeline to Montreal as a security protection against the interruption of oil supplies from potentially unstable areas". That is what we said four years ago; that is what we urged the government to do, and that is what the government refused to do. I suggest that is why we are in the situation we find ourselves in today. Now, the Prime Minister comes before us and tells us that because the NDP have been urging this, and because we told the government it should do this four years ago, they have been converted like Paul on the road to Damascus, so they are now great advocates of this Montreal pipeline.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock.