

independent retail outlets will be able to get their share of the oil available. Their situation should not depend on the existing market position, because in the last year or two their situation has been a most unfair one. I want to make sure that these independents get a fair deal and I hope the minister will be able to tell us when the bill is in committee what criteria will be used in the allocation of oil supplies.

The real issue on which the government has been evasive and ambivalent is that of the price structure. In this legislation, apart from clause 16(1)(L), no reference is made to price and the reference in that paragraph is a minimal one. It speaks of the power of the energy supply board to prescribe a price at which or a range of prices within which any oil product may be sold to customers in particular market areas. This does not give us any information at all as to what the price structure will be. The hon. member for Peace River, when he was speaking earlier, told those of us in the New Democratic Party that if we had only supported the Conservatives' idea of a price freeze instead of voting against some of their non-confidence motions this situation would not have arisen. Mr. Speaker, we were not confident that a 90-day price freeze would solve our difficulties. By now, the 90 days would be long past. Second, we did not believe you could freeze the price of goods imported from other countries or the price of goods produced and sold within a single province. What we did advocate, and what we are still advocating, are selective controls. And oil is one of the commodities to which we want selective controls applied.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: I should like to see such controls applied to lumber, to steel, to farm machinery, to synthetic rubber, all of which are produced in this country. Those are the only kind of goods whose prices you can control. One of my hon. friends says the N.D.P. is coming round to the idea. Mr. Speaker, I moved a motion in this House ten years ago calling for a prices review board which would establish selective controls on some 30 or 40 commodities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: The fact is the government has to make up its mind whether it is going to set the price or whether the international oil monopoly is going to set the price.

Mr. Yewchuk: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Douglas: If the hon. member wishes to ask a question, I shall be very glad to answer it when I have finished what I have to say, but I don't want to interrupt my line of thought. I should like to continue the point I am endeavouring to make.

Mr. Andre: Whatever it was.

Mr. Douglas: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can only give thoughts. I cannot guarantee that the hon. member has the receiving apparatus.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: We have to decide whether the government, in the interest of the people of Canada, will estab-

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lish the price which the public will pay for Canadian oil or whether it will be set by the international oil industry. I would point out that the oil industry is only interested in establishing the world price or the international price for our present continental oil. It is also seeking to get its foot in the door with respect to the development of the oil sands in western Canada.

● (1650)

If one doubts that, one has only to see the statements of Syncrude made up of four large multinational corporations. They are asking, supported by the premier of Alberta and supported, I presume, by Conservative members in this House, first of all for special tax concessions. Despite the fact that the oil industry only pays taxes on 6 per cent of its book profits, it wants further tax incentives. Second, it wants a written guarantee that it will be free from any price controls; third, that it will be free from any export controls; and fourth, that it will be free from any export tax. If you add those four things together they spell only one thing, and that is that the oil monopoly wants to get its hands on the western oil sands and to be assured that it can ship oil without any restriction to the United States, while requiring the Canadian people either to pay the American price or go without oil.

When I talk about an oil price freeze, I am not suggesting that you can keep any price absolutely static. There has to be room for adjustments, and if the oil industry can demonstrate that its costs of production have gone up, then of course the price should be reviewed. If the increase is justified, it has to be granted. But the oil industry has not done badly, as is apparent when one looks at the profits it has made, up some 87 per cent, or if you realize that in the last 12 months there has been an increase of 95 cents a barrel, which represents a 37 per cent increase, increasing revenues by some \$700 million annually. But the industry has done even more than that. It has increased the value of the oil in the ground by \$9.5 billion, which is not a bad increase in the value of one's assets.

What we have to know from the government is what it proposes to do on January 31 when the price freeze which was established temporarily has ended. We have had a lot of contradictory statements. At one time the minister said outside the House that he would fix the price at the Montreal market price, which would be the international price. At other times we are told that it is going to be phased in. I notice Mr. Don Getty, minister of intergovernmental affairs of the province of Alberta, said they had reached an agreement with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and this was corroborated by the premier of Alberta. Mr. Getty said they would be prepared to phase in this increase to bring the price of Canadian crude up to the international market price, and they should start with an increase of \$1.50 a barrel. An increase of \$1.50 a barrel increases the revenues of the oil industry of Canada by \$1,100 million a year.

I notice that the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) made a speech out on the Pacific coast to the Conservative convention. The *Vancouver Province* for Saturday, December 1 quotes him as follows:

Mr. Stanfield said the federal government should be meeting representatives of oil producing provinces with the idea of increasing prices in stages and working out an arrangement lead-