

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

cannot buy your oil because all our tanks are full yet we are condemned to freeze!

We find ourselves in that predicament because of the carelessness of the government which does not dare take its responsibilities although it is fully aware of the situation. Unfortunately it is through the red phone—not the red phone in Moscow but the red phone in Washington—that orders are given to the Minister of Energy in Canada and to the Canadian government and we are afraid of displeasing the Americans. So we tighten our belts and we freeze because our friends from the south, the Americans, order us to freeze.

Mr. Speaker, I said in the very first days of this crisis that they were trying to create a psychosis to lead us to an economic crisis. Let us consider the results so far. We have witnessed an increase in the cost of living. Yesterday and the day before we talked about higher prices for food, clothing and particularly cars, for which an increase of \$150 has been announced. As far as food is concerned, we see an increase of 9.3 per cent. Mr. Speaker, shipping companies say they pay more for gasoline and oil are more expensive, so they have to post stiffer rates for transport.

The whole Canadian economy is headed for an economic crisis. We are not the only country to do so. It is a common practice in all countries that are said to be democratic, that is western countries.

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns stated in Brussels on December 10—and his statement appeared in *Le Droit* of December 11, 1973—that the shortage created by the Arab countries in the whole world was the premonitory sign of an economic recession. But it is not the Arab problem that is prejudicial to us in Canada, for only 2 per cent of our oil supplies come from Arab countries. Most of our imported oil comes from Venezuela. The newly elected president said yesterday or the day before that there is no oil shortage in his country. However he said: "We are ready to bargain with Canada or the United States, provided some advantages be granted to Venezuela. This is quite normal and we would do the same for Canada. But there is no oil shortage in Venezuela and the new president of that country is willing to come to an agreement with us.

But the Arab countries are under pressure from the USSR to deprive countries that import oil from Saudi Arabia or any other oil-producing Arab state. And Mr. Luns said bluntly about the Arab oil embargo, and I quote:—therefore the threat against western countries goes beyond the military.

● (1630)

While NATO people are talking about warfare, troops and national and international defence, the Secretary General says: Militarism is not the only reason to prevent Arabs from making a compromise with the western countries.

I quote what I have on hand:

Everyone knows that the present economic welfare of our countries is in serious danger of being hurt badly by the oil embargo enforced by Arab countries and that an economic recession could very well be on its way.

This is exactly what I said to the House about ten days ago. We are developing the new economic crisis, as we

[Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue).]

developed the one from 1929 to 1939, and once again I shall repeat what I said recently: We have had to put up with a 10-year crisis when we were sitting on mountains of wheat in Canada, when the Canadian production was destroyed, when misery was tolerated in the midst of abundance. Under the pretext of a world crisis, we were letting Canadians literally die of hunger at home.

Mr. Speaker, under the cover of the economic crisis, of the international oil crisis, while we are not lacking in anything in Canada today, they leave us in the cold. Yet, we can swim in an ocean of oil anywhere in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, what amazes me is that—

**An hon. Member:** You are right!

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Of course I am right! I can see a number of hon. members from the province of Quebec who are French Canadians like me and who find it funny—

**An hon. Member:** One could reply to that!

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Yes, hit me, and I'll hit you right back!

Mr. Speaker, these guys do not even have the guts to stand up to defend their people who are being punished, while tanks in Montreal are filled to the lid with oil.

Golden Eagle Canada Limited refuses to deliver home heating oil in Rimouski, Mont-Joli and Lac Saint Jean. Distributors are told, we have quotas to meet, we set quotas for you. Quotas are imposed when we do not even know what to do to empty the tanks in Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, I will not swallow that political filth of asking people to make sacrifices, to tighten their belts when we already do not know what to do with the wealth that exists in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am not the only one talking about an economic crisis. In the United States, the Congress is talking about it. The Secretary General of NATO is talking about it in Brussels. An economic crisis is being set up and we, in Canada, are getting ready to deal with it because that is what is happening in other countries. We are going to suffer because it is said of others that they are in distress.

Did we commiserate so much with the Third World, those who really suffer? Do we necessarily have to make Canadians suffer when we can guarantee security and wealth to our people besides extending massive aid to other countries that are in need of our help?

Mr. Speaker, Social Crediters do not accept the oil crisis, they do not accept that sudden change on the part of the government at a time when everybody, in both western and eastern Canada, is crying that we have wealth, that we have reserves for three centuries while a former premier of Newfoundland states that we are drowning in seas of oil in Newfoundland, in the Atlantic oil wells.

Mr. Speaker, all those resources can be tapped. We have again been told that the number of unemployed just increased by 30,000 or 35,000. Why not use this labour and get them interested in the development of our resources and oil to face the situation? One must help the others but