

*Energy*

the Ontario tire industry. The government has completely ignored the consumer, claiming it must protect the textile industry in the province to the east of us.

The government is completely ignoring what could be in the energy situation but this is not surprising when we consider who represents the industrial heartland of the country in the cabinet. As far as the three musketeers from Windsor are concerned, if a product does not have wheels it is not a manufactured product. The minister from the steel city travels around the country. The minister from Toronto, the heartland of manufacturing, travels the country and goes to see the Queen. The other minister is in charge of propaganda. Of course, he is very busy with the advertising campaigns for legislation which is before the House. We must give him full credit for that.

Ontario does not want a handout, Mr. Speaker. It wants an energy policy which will help Canada realize the opportunities which exist. It is shortsighted to view the present situation as a crisis for consumers; it is a crisis for the worker. Jobs are being lost at great cost to the Canadian consumer at this moment. It is small comfort to have cheaper gas if you do not have a job and cannot afford a car. We need jobs to produce the money with which people can buy the gas.

Hon. members opposite did not ignore the energy situation in the past. On October 10, last year, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was very loquacious and suggested that this party did not have a policy. He said we were offering lame excuses. He complained that Canadians wanted to know where we stood on the question of energy prices. "Where does the government stand?" he asked. The hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) who was in the House until a moment ago said the government had had five months in which to establish its energy policy. Mr. Speaker, the present government has been in office eight months and it still does not have a policy. I should like to know where it is.

In the Speech from the Throne the following passage appeared:

My government's energy policy is critical to the success of all its economic policies. Energy policy is as important for Canada in the 1980s as railway policy was in the 1880s. Like railway policy in that earlier era, energy development has the potential to create growth and prosperity across Canada.

I agree, Mr. Speaker—but now, not some time in the future. That is what they said. They indicated the country would be presented with an opportunity rather than a crisis and promised they would do something about energy. Then what happened? People know that railways have tunnels. This government has tunnel vision when it comes to energy. We were told we would have a made-in-Canada price. That is a terrific idea they said. Also, that we would shut our eyes to market prices and have a made-in-Canada price. They just wanted the industry to agree that this was a good idea. One hundred dollars invested in the United States returns a fair profit to everyone involved, but with \$100 invested here no one knows where they stand.

● (2130)

The Speech from the Throne went on to say that the government is vigorously pursuing a policy consistent with its energy policy commitment. Where is that vigour leading? We have had eight months of vigour and nothing has happened. While this Liberal government fiddles and diddles, at least the Ontario Progressive Conservative government, which some members opposite have been so quick to criticize, is taking action. Last week a plan was announced to invest \$165 million in the energy field to encourage conservation and the development of alternative transportation fuel. The development of solar energy would be stimulated and help would be given to local governments to convert heating systems to accept new forms of energy. A lot of things will be done in Ontario. Specifically, what will be done? First, \$75 million will be spent. Also, 6,000 man-years of work will be created. That is what we want in Ontario. We do not want any more stalling from this federal government. We want an energy policy. We want work. We do not want handouts. Stuart Smith, the economic genius in Ontario—he has a Ph.D. in something and that makes him a genius—called the policy that of nickels and dimes. If that is a nickels and dimes policy, you Liberals have nothing. I say you do not even have a "cents" policy. The Liberals have done nothing to produce a policy. When will we have one?

**An hon. Member:** Tomorrow.

**Mr. Lewis:** The hon. member says tomorrow. I heard "a few weeks" mentioned by another member a minute ago. I ask hon. members: is that vigour? Ways in which the insulation program will be improved were talked about in the Speech from the Throne. That was in April. It is now October. Hon. members can tell from my voice that it is cold and that I am getting one. But we are waiting for improvement. I would be glad if I could just get the forms, let alone wait for the program. There are three million housing units in Canada built between 1961 and 1976 that would be eligible. If we had a comprehensive program to provide insulation for those homes or to improve the insulation in them, we would save energy. Home owners would benefit and we would provide work for Canadians in the production and installation of insulation materials. A background paper produced for CMHC as part of the material I have as housing critic indicates that manufacturers of insulation material would consider increasing their capacity if there were a significant increase in demand by the public. We have to understand that we cannot get that capacity increased until we have a program from the Liberal government.

Canadians must begin to understand the benefits which self-sufficiency in crude oil would bring to every one of us. We would be freed of the need to depend on foreign resources and our lack of stability, well known to Canadians because we do not have a plan, would be gone. Moreover, we are presently paying close to \$3 billion a year to purchase foreign crude oil and the effect of this on our balance of payments is horrendous. If we were to develop what we have, we could reduce our