

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

must be held responsible for that position. I feel that was perhaps indicated yesterday in the remarks of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to this House when, as recorded at page 8442 of *Hansard*, he said:

Industry has urged the government to put in place a mandatory allocation program as quickly as possible—

Industry has made the request, and it would appear on the evidence which has been produced, that the government is responding basically to the request of those industrial leaders. I suggest this is nothing new.

It is interesting to note that there is a standing committee of this House known as the Committee on National Resources and Public Works. On March 8, there were some very interesting questions and answers between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and certain representatives of opposition parties on that Committee in respect of fuel security problems in eastern Canada. I think that exchange should be put on the record as recorded at page 4:9 of those proceedings, the minister was asked whether he would be willing to enter into negotiations on a direct government-to-government basis, for example with Venezuela, in an attempt to secure oil supplies for eastern Canada if a crisis should arise. The minister stated:

That is a possibility. In these arrangements with the supplier countries we have inclined not to get into a direct government-to-government basis. Dr. Howland has represented Canada in the OECD discussions in this regard and the approach taken generally within OECD is that it should not be on a government-to-government basis as between consumers and producers but it should be left on the company basis.

Surely we do not have to reiterate the fact that the minister has continually said it is a private international company matter and that we in Canada must accept their position as to whether, in fact we have a shortfall in Canada.

● (1540)

I should like to come back to those minutes shortly, but dealing with the international companies I think it is helpful if we review the names of the international companies to which the minister is responding. One might refer to them as the group of seven because they are seven in number. There is BP Trading Company in the United Kingdom. There is Exxon from the United States, Gulf from the United States, Petrofina from Belgium, The Royal Dutch-Shell group from the United Kingdom and Holland; Sun Oil from the United States and Texaco from the United States. Those are the international companies to which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has told us we must respond. The size of those companies is truly large. For example, Exxon is the second largest corporation in the United States, ranking only behind General Motors in sales but ahead of General Motors in terms of total assets. Exxon is based in New York and has sales of some \$20 billion, which is even greater than the budget of the Minister of Finance, and it has assets of \$21 billion.

The other companies I have listed are among the largest in the world. This is true, but I would suggest that no company, regardless of how large it is, should be able to push Canada around the way certain of these companies apparently are pushing our government around. Every one

[Mr. Stevens.]

of the group of seven has a subsidiary in Canada. I think it is interesting to note that while a great deal is made about the foreign ownership of companies in Canada, it would take relatively little investment on the part of Canadians to shift control of all those subsidiary companies from foreign ownership to Canadian ownership. I am not speaking—and I would emphasize this—of state control. That is perhaps the only type of control, of which the government thinks. I am thinking of investment by individual Canadians. If the government would facilitate it, the shareholder control of literally all the subsidiaries of the group of seven in Canada could be shifted so that they could be Canadian owned. This would require an expenditure by Canadian investors of something in the order of \$2½ billion. This may sound like a large figure until we relate it to the total worth of all companies in Canada.

For example, if we look at the Toronto Stock Exchange we find that the amount which it would take to shift control of these subsidiary companies to Canada from the international oil companies would be approximately one per cent of the total value of all stocks trading in Toronto.

Mr. Whicher: That was last week.

Mr. Stevens: No, that is today. We took the total off at noon today. I, of course, do not know, because of government action, whether the Toronto market has fallen since noon.

Yesterday the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources read at great length from a publication he put out last June called "An Energy Policy for Canada". I thought the minister was not particularly careful when he was reading from this publication to make clear that the publication was put out for discussion purposes only last June. The government emphasized at that time it was not necessarily bound by the policies suggested in the analysis but felt there should be perhaps two years discussion before the government actually took a decision on energy policy. It may be that on a lot of other matters on which the government has procrastinated it has not been caught off base to date, but here we have a clear example of where the government's lack of policy and planning has caught up with it. The energy situation in the world caught them.

I would point out that while the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referred to page 121 in that report, he was very careful not to flip over the page and read from page 122 where we find the following:

Methods of increasing our security of supply over this medium-term period have been suggested by industry and others and include:

Under that heading various things are listed that could be done or have been suggested to be done. I would point out that even today most of those items have not even been suggested to be done by the government to ensure security of supply in eastern Canada. For example, the first item listed is extension to eastern Canada of pipeline facilities from western Canada. It may be that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) likes to appear on television and tell the people that a decision has been made to build the pipeline, but the fact is it was only being discussed in June. We in this party say build it and build it now.

An hon. Member: You did not say that last fall.