

There has been some debate, and I will recognize that. I had to listen to the hon. member until he exposed the reason for which he had a question of privilege. I must say, however, that in this particular case there might be a grievance, and maybe an important one, but there is no question of privilege.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

#### ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—ALLEGED GOVERNMENTAL MISMANAGEMENT OF ENERGY SITUATION

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre)** moved:

That this House condemns the government for its mismanagement of Canada's energy situation with the consequent loss of economic development opportunities and increased threat to the nation's energy security.

He said: Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to propose this motion to the House. This government's energy policy, or I think we can say this government's lack of an energy policy, has left Canada and Canadians increasingly exposed to shortages of oil from other countries and has cost Canadians literally billions of dollars in lost energy opportunities through industrial development. That is the reason for the motion, which reads as follows:

That this House condemns the government for its mismanagement of Canada's energy situation with the consequent loss of economic development opportunities and increased threat to the nation's energy security.

This government has become totally preoccupied with the division of revenues between the federal government and the oil producing provinces. It has run, over the past number of years, the financial affairs of this country in such a haphazard, slipshod fashion, that it has run up a deficit which this year will amount to some \$14 billion.

This government views oil revenues as the easiest, most painless way of reducing this huge figure, but in so doing it is splitting the country. It is increasing the exposure of Canadians to a shortage of oil and, in myopia, it is cutting Canadians off from the most tremendous economic development and job-producing opportunities in our history.

Recently, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has been running an advertising campaign, the objective of which is to "reduce the level of public concern about energy". Those last words were taken from a document leaked from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources which set out the objective of the advertising program. Let us look at that objective against the background of what is happening in this country and in the world today.

● (1530)

In 1979 Canada imported some 430,000 barrels of oil a day from countries such as Venezuela and the Middle East. This is about 25 per cent of our consumption of about 1.8 million barrels a day. What greater reason for concern can there be

### Energy

when two of the largest exporting countries are at war with each other? Possibly that objective will change in 1985 when our imports from these countries will be some 700,000 barrels a day, because that is what the National Energy Board is projecting.

In 1981 shipments through the Sarnia-Montreal oil pipeline will commence to decline. By 1985 that pipeline may cease to transport western oil. If no further oil discoveries are made in western Canada—and there have been practically none until a recent discovery in the Pembina area in the past few months—the province of Ontario will begin using foreign oil in 1985. That is right, the Atlantic provinces and Quebec will be 100 per cent reliant on foreign sources for their oil, and in 1985 Ontario will also be moving into that very exposed position. That is the nature of our oil supply picture today. That is the result of the shortsighted energy policies of the Liberal government, policies which took us from being a net exporter in 1975, five short years ago, two years after the first oil shock, to our exposed position today.

Any number of experts have been predicting that the likelihood of a world-wide shortage of oil in the next few years is increasing, and increasing dramatically. There was an article in *The Globe and Mail* this morning setting out some of the aspects of this supply problem in relation to the war between Iraq and Iran. I am sorry to say the answer by the minister to a question put by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) ignored the message this news report was conveying to Canadians. The world has managed to cope with the Iranian shortages starting about one and a half years ago, and so far it has managed to cope with the shortages which are starting to occur resulting from the Iraq-Iran war. But we should not be managing our energy policy oblivious to these threats, particularly when we have it within our control to protect ourselves from these shortages through a policy of developing our own oil reserves.

*The Economist* of London said it all in one paragraph, as follows:

The war between Iraq and Iran has changed the balance of power in the oil-producing Gulf. An Iraq which has people and guns and an Arab Bismarck of a leader willing to use them (and after this war may also control, directly or indirectly, Iran's potential 6 million barrels) will loom over a humiliated and weakened Iran, a Saudi Arabia which has oil but hardly any people, and the assorted statelets of the Gulf coastline. That is the local consequence.

The next sentence should be the concern of Canadians:

For the wider world, whose factories and ships and aircraft and cars depend on the Gulf's already overpriced oil, the main lesson of this war is its reminder that no hidden hand can be counted on to steer the flow of oil safely through the political rivalries of this turbulent region.

The world is laughing at us today. We are the country which was a net exporter in 1975. We are the country which ignored the danger signals of 1973, signals which other countries took so seriously. We are the country which now imports 25 per cent of its oil needs. The world is shaking its head, saying, "How could they have blown it so badly?" And still we have not learned. This government today is following policies which increase our reliance on foreign oil, which increase the risk of shortages in our country. Canadians should be demanding