

*Energy*

research needs to be done. We have an industry which will not be competitive with Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia or any other part of Canada or with world-wide competitors if we do not get some kind of rational federal program to give us energy at competitive prices, which we cannot have now.

**Mr. Breau:** Would the hon. member entertain a question?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is not the decision of the hon. member because his time has expired. The only way in which he can answer a question is by unanimous consent. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There is no consent.

[Translation]

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies)—

[English]

**Mr. McCain:** You have had your chance to speak for New Brunswick. You have been in the House for a long time but you have not spoken for New Brunswick yet.

**Mr. Breau:** I am on the list.

[Translation]

**Mr. Allard:** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to express my gratitude and extend my thanks to the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) who introduced that motion which in my opinion deserves very special consideration.

There is no doubt that the prospecting for traditional oil resources has decreased more quickly than expected by the National Energy Board. Just the same the federal government must meet as much as possible the energy requirements of Canada with our own resources.

In that connection, on April 27 last, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) tabled in the House a paper entitled "An Energy Strategy for Canada". To that end the federal government is considering making Canada self-sufficient in energy within the next ten years. However, Mr. Speaker, I remember quite well that three years ago, that is in June 1973, the present government published a paper on its energy policy which was to make Canada self-sufficient by approximately 1983. And barely three years later after that publication, we were told once again that Canada will be self-sufficient only in 1986.

● (2130)

It is therefore easy to realize that the ten-year goal set by the Canadian government has deteriorated from year to year. On several occasions I asked for the unanimous consent of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 43, to discuss some measures the federal government had to bring in to save energy as much as possible. As usual, my proposals did not receive unanimous consent. Among some motions that I wanted to move, there was one to maintain daylight saving time throughout the year.

[Mr. McCain.]

I am convinced that this measure would enable the federal government to save thousands of barrels of oil, not to mention electricity. All that is needed is to recall the experiment conducted in the United States in 1973, which proved to be very conclusive when one considers the saving of energy that was realized, that is 2.5 per cent. Moreover, we have ready access to wind energy which appears as a replacement formula, specially for a country like ours where the winter season limits the possibilities of solar energy.

Mr. Speaker, since the days of cheap oil are over and those of oil itself are numbered, why should we not take advantage of the energy potential of the wind which is really tremendous in our beautiful country?

Mr. Speaker, what I find really curious in all this is to see that the federal government does not yet have real means to assess scientifically the Canadian oil and gas supplies which it has up to now consistently overestimated. We, in the Social Credit party of Canada, deeply feel that this government should establish, with the consent and the participation of the provinces, a Canadian energy resources board. That board would be responsible for the assessment of the energy requirements for the next 25 years and the availability of adequate supplies to meet those requirements. For the moment, as I was saying a while ago, our energy resources cannot be scientifically assessed, yet it would be really urgent to see that our energy resources be rightly assessed, given the fact that we consume much oil and that this energy source is not renewable.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) also announced that the price of Canadian oil would move up to the level of the world price. But one way or another, it was to be expected, considering that the present government has always lacked foresight, as far as I can remember. Because of the inability of the government to develop an efficient energy strategy, Canadian taxpayers will pay even more for oil.

There is no doubt that a real policy cannot be separated from a global economic policy. Now, as was foreseeable, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources announces sharp increases in oil and gas prices. But before announcing such increases, did the government realize that they would have a direct impact on inflation in Canada, that this so-called energy policy is working directly against the price and wage control policy of the Trudeau government? In this document, the minister invites taxpayers to save energy, oil in particular, when the policy of the Department of Transport encourages air rather than rail transportation. Is there anything to understand in all this, Mr. Speaker? I, for one, cannot understand. It is inconsistent to the point of being staggering.

Under those circumstances, one may consider, Mr. Speaker, that Canada stands at a crossroads where not only the future of its oil industry but of its whole economy is at stake. May we seriously continue to produce enough oil from Canadian sources to satisfy domestic demand or must we become increasingly dependent on foreign oil as we are at present?

We all know that huge oil and natural gas supplies have been discovered in the Arctic and that we now have the technology required to develop oil from tar sands in super-