

more than it helps the citizens of Canada. It provides jobs in Michigan and New York that should be provided to Canadians in Ontario and Quebec. It encourages exploration in Texas, Oklahoma and Wyoming that should be going on in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Last week, honourable senators, a special seminar was held in Toronto by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Mr. J. L. Thibault, Director of Economics, Canadian Manufacturers' Association, told the meeting that the loud and clear message from manufacturers is that their most important need is to have adequate and secure sources of oil and gas where needed, and at internationally competitive prices. He concluded that the energy policy does not serve this need and likely will lead to rationing. Mr. Thibault noted that the cashflow of the oil and gas exploration industry will be cut by 10 to 50 per cent, depending on circumstances, and said it is estimated that the exploration effort as a result will be reduced by 30 to 50 per cent. He went on to say that the whole situation right now is one of uncertainty and instability, and the most critical result is that we are losing momentum in what should be an all-out drive to improve and secure our supplies of petroleum. We may even be losing some major participants in the whole game and once this momentum is lost, it cannot be easily or quickly regained.

Mr. Thibault said that it was understandable that many companies had guessed that self-sufficiency in oil would be a top priority for Canada and had oriented their strategy accordingly, but the energy program has shown that these companies made a bad guess. The top priority in energy policy is government revenues and Canadianization.

Another prominent Canadian, Mr. Darcy McKeough, formerly Treasurer of Ontario and now President of Union Gas Limited of Chatham, Ontario, said in Hamilton earlier this week that Canada could benefit greatly by having a majority government with a four- to five-year mandate if it used the opportunity to begin carrying out an energy policy uncomplicated by politics and not obscured by public relations illusions. What Canadians are getting from Ottawa instead is a multi-million dollar advertising campaign designed to lull them into a false sense of security concerning oil resources; a program to change the ownership of existing enterprises, when the real need is to generate more activity by both foreign-owned and Canadian companies; increased uncertainties and delays when there is no time to spare; and disputes and regional animosities that have the potential for great harm to the economy and the unity of the country. Mr. McKeough went on to say that while a few people have passed a harsh judgment on Alberta's response to the federal budget, its measures were really quite moderate compared with some of the actions the province might have taken or might have tried to take. He described Premier Lougheed as a devoted and dedicated Canadian.

● (1510)

It is unfortunate that policy disagreements and disputes over the sharing of energy money and control are capable of

dividing individual Canadians as deeply and as bitterly as our current disputes are doing. Mr. McKeough concluded by stating, "A subtle and deadly kind of detraction is going on in Canada in which an impression is spread that those who disagree with one are unpatriotic." He warned that the feelings engendered by this kind of debate could become a permanent threat to the real unity of the country.

Those were wise words uttered by an individual with great experience both in government and in the private sector. I would urge honourable senators to weigh them carefully.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, if no honourable senator from the other side is going to move the adjournment to this debate, I shall do so, and I shall resume the debate at the appropriate time.

**Senator Frith:** I thank Senator Murray for noting that honourable senators on this side who might wish to adjourn the debate are not present at the moment. With his permission, I would ask leave to adjourn the debate myself. If it turns out that no one on this side wishes to participate, I shall yield to him.

On motion of Senator Frith, debate adjourned.

#### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, there are two courses open to us now. I understand that all the other items on the order paper are to stand. We can either stand them formally now and then revert to Question Period, or we can proceed to Question Period now and stand the remaining Orders of the Day later. Since we intend to adjourn at 4 o'clock, I suggest that we dispose of the remaining orders, and then revert to Question Period.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed that all other Orders of the Day stand?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.  
Orders stand.

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#### QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

##### THE SENATE

##### ATTENDANCE OF CABINET MINISTERS

**Hon. Lowell Murray:** Honourable senators, we on this side of the house have a number of questions which we wanted to put to the Minister of State for Economic Development. The Leader of the Government advises us that he is at a cabinet committee meeting.

The Minister of State for Economic Development was here for less than an hour this afternoon. He left shortly after 3 o'clock. I want to make the following point about this: Up until very recently the attendance of ministers in this chamber has