

Energy

An hon. Member: Mr. Justice!

Mr. Wagner: ... a feat of strength approximately 72 hours before a non-confidence motion and at a time when the government is gathering the scattered elements of its policy in order to project them as elements of a national energy policy, while they are in fact only a Liberal survival policy ...

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We have been hearing this for a whole year.

Mr. Wagner: ... a feat of strength to create two nations in this country: the east and the west.

Mr. Stanfield: This is quite true.

Some hon. Members: What did you do in 1961?

Mr. Wagner: They have been divided, the most under-privileged against the richest, that which is taken for granted because it has always been faithful, namely the province of Quebec which has always been faithful to the Liberals as it takes them for granted and that which must be courted because it is needed.

Such forceful action is unacceptable. If there is one thing wrong with this motion it is the fact that it is much too charitable for the government.

Mr. Stanfield: Of course, of course.

Mr. Wagner: The eclectic performances of the government those last few weeks, the scenario which we are used to witness, the jumps made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the most indecent compromises with the Sir Galahad of the NDP party, the about-faces of government members, mainly those from Quebec—

Mr. Langlois: Let the hon. member speak on about-faces!

Mr. Wagner: —all those contributions—

An hon. Member: Two seats in Quebec!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order. Perhaps I should remind hon. members of Standing Order 12, which is quite clear and I quote:

(3) When a member is speaking, no member shall pass between him and the Chair, nor interrupt him, except to raise a point of order.

I hope hon. members will remember this Standing Order until the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has completed his remarks.

Mr. Wagner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I only wanted to add that all those contributions from our friends the government members, in addition to their contributions this evening, would have justified much stronger words than those we had to use in our motion, and which underline the incompetence, the inconsistency and irresponsibility that bring economic losses to Canada and deprivations to consumers. We did not use stronger words because we wanted to anticipate the request of the Minister for

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Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) and allow the coming festivities to inspire us.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the government, in this oil crisis, did not use any foresight. The government leader in the House said precisely this to the United States, last Saturday: "Canada produces more oil than it needs, but distances make its transport difficult from the oil fields of the west to the highly populated cities of the east; this forces Canada to import foreign oil. Despite everything, Canada continues to supply the U.S.A. with about one million barrels of oil every day, that is, more than ever in the past."

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that Canada has enough oil to meet our demands, provided we take the necessary steps to organize its distribution and improve its shortage facilities throughout our country, which has not been done, is not being done, and is not likely to be done; and yet, the planning for the needs and resources should have been made as early as 1969, immediately after the Six Day War; this is when the government should have demonstrated competence and foresight.

The oil shortage psychosis in eastern Canada turns out to the advantage of the federal government. Nearly phoney, in response to a political stimulus, the oil shortage with which Canadians in Quebec as well as in the Maritime provinces are faced can be used as an excuse by the federal government to take critical steps without allowing those most directly affected enough time for a clear perspective. Quebeckers and Maritimers must be made to feel that Alberta oil at any price is essential to federal salvation.

In all that, at least until further notice, in spite of higher prices, in spite of injustices, in spite of regional disparities that are going to widen, none of the 56 federal Liberals from Quebec dare stand up in this House to decry the lack of any sense of fairness in Ottawa toward Quebeckers. What will be needed, Mr. Speaker, to finally get those people moving one day? What will be needed to make them understand they were elected to vindicate the interests of their fellow citizens in the province of Quebec? The actual or apprehended energy shortage benefits this government on the short term with the complicity of the easy-to-go-along New Democrats. It is now becoming easy to claim, and with very little subtlety, unilateral initiatives and order emergency measures. This same government, incapable of pinpointing the actual causes of a major problem, incapable in the search of adequate solutions of reconciling national interest and regional interests, steps up on the pretense of favoring the public weal the tears in the very sense of Canadian federalism. It would be hoped, Mr. Speaker, that this government would be concerned not only about its survival, not only about adding a few weeks to its political life but that it would be more concerned about the principles inherent in federalism.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to indicate very clearly how the recent decisions made by this government betray the present policy of federalism. I know quite pertinently how Quebec must examine very closely, first the whole question of the export tax, second the whole of the quite numerous and extensive powers given to the central gov-