

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

have to cancel some committee meetings and that is why I wanted to inquire.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, if we were going to be divided we are so chivalrous that we would not force the government House Leader to cancel any commitments. In any case, as far as I know there is no intention to divide as far as the resolution is concerned or to raise any objection in that way. I made my point and we are in the hands of the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight).

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I believe my friend the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Bawden) has the floor. If you would keep me in mind when he has finished, I would certainly give way to allow him to finish his speech.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Bawden) had the floor when we adjourned.

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ENERGY SUPPLIES EMERGENCY ACT

**MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR ALLOCATION BOARD,
MANDATORY ALLOCATION OF SUPPLIES AND RATIONING
OF CONTROLLED PRODUCTS**

The House resumed, from Wednesday, December 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-236, to provide a means to conserve the supplies of petroleum products within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or marked disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada, and to amend the National Energy Board Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, If I may continue from last night, I should like to say that on looking at the world energy picture, energy is the vital question of our day. It is a subject that today is being debated by governments and by the public in virtually every country in the world. Indeed, energy supplies are now a matter of prime concern to forecasters, to governments and numerous international bodies who are concerned with future social and political development and with the problems of economic growth.

To find a starting point for oil policy considerations in Canada, one must turn to the world energy scene first to see clearly where this country fits into the world picture. The most significant, and perhaps most unfortunate, aspect of the energy situation in the world today is that the determination of events and the entire course of the energy decision-making is motivated by political expediency. I am sorry to say that Canada now finds itself in exactly that mess, too.

In the longer term, and perhaps even in the shorter term, that situation can only work to the detriment of the Canadian people, because in the end it is always the people who pay. I doubt, however, if many Canadians today wish to pay, or indeed can afford to pay, any more

[Mr. MacEachen.]

taxes for the mistakes of this government. To focus on the highlights of the world energy scenario, perhaps I might refer this House, Mr. Speaker, to the very clear and vital message which was delivered by a number of recognized specialists to the conference on world energy which was convened in London, England, this autumn.

● (1530)

The highlights to emerge from this conference were as follows. First, the world has only eight years to get ready for a fall in oil production. The industry is not finding oil in sufficient quantities to keep up with soaring demands. Second, there seems no doubt that there has been a genuine decline over the last six or seven years in the gross finding rate, and also that there has been a decline over the last decade or so in the discovery of supergiant oil fields, although many large fields by world standards remain to be found. Third, it is difficult to see any significant increase in finding rates over the next ten to fifteen years. Fourth, the conference concluded that in the late 1970's or early 1980's, by which time world oil production will be about twice what it is today, world production will begin an inevitable and slow decline.

The grounds for concern outlined in the conference were that with the inevitable increase of demand, supplies of conventional oil may start to decline before alternate sources of energy are developed. Eight years or so is not very long in which to plan and implement the provision of various alternate sources of energy. While there are perhaps certain of the world's resources for which substitutes are not easily available, this is not so with regard to energy as a whole. By applying our present technology to fossil fuels, we can deal effectively with the needs that lie ahead by phasing into nuclear energy and other supplies for the next century, as those sources will be as prolific as those provided from hydrocarbons during the last few decades. The era of cheap energy which we have experienced for the last 20 years is behind us. We shall have to become used to less prolific and higher cost energy, and learn new ways of using these basic resources more efficiently.

The conference in London concluded, further, that of prime importance is the collaboration between producer and consumer, as their common interests are of much greater importance than their differences. In other words, both should get together in an effort to solve their problems. Both are equally dependent on the effective development of energy for their present and future prosperity. Their differences should not be resolved by confrontation, but through negotiation. Further, crude oil and natural gas will meet an essential and critical portion of the world's energy needs until the end of the century. Huge sums of capital investment will be needed to meet this production demand. It is estimated that oil expenditures will be in the area of \$480 billion over the next ten years, an average of \$132 million per day.

The conference concluded that industry and government policy was called for in four principal areas. First, it suggested that there must be avoidance of a competitive scramble for oil by consuming countries, which could be done by the creation and maintenance of agreements for apportioning supplies against possible shortages. Second, there must be assistance in the economic development of