

Energy

on this area. When we come to the issue of acid rain and consider all the resulting problems in that area, we must make an enormous effort so that natural gas, this natural energy product which does not produce much pollution, be accepted in this country. This is why, Mr. Speaker, our government is taking its responsibilities and we hope that in the forthcoming years the use of natural gas will have increased considerably, especially in eastern Canada.

● (2020)

[English]

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, even a brief review of the energy and industrial opportunities awaiting this country will impress anyone with the folly of failing to produce a national policy to match our Canadian economy. Month after wearying month has gone by while this government sits in thumb-twiddling repose contemplating its constitutional navel.

Is there not one of the members opposite, one of true vision and sincerity who will admit that the strength of a country is derived of substance, of things, of the industrial and social facts of its economy? Perhaps it is the Liberal philosophy to erect a facade of grand and lofty constitutional rhetoric to the world to cover the crumbling ruin of the building it hides. Perhaps it cares more for developing its advertising technique to create false hope than it does to developing the tar sands to create genuine hope.

I am sure the huge irony of the Liberals having watched five increases in the price of gasoline since they came to power on a promise of keeping prices down has not been lost on all Canadians, whether they live in the west, central or eastern regions of this country.

The Liberal demi-gods have been presiding over one of the most divisive rifts between the provinces and the federal government this country has ever seen. Hostilities between different parts of the country have been fostered, encouraged and even initiated. These animosities between the people of Canada need not exist. I can assure this House, and my colleagues from western Canada will bear me out, that there exists an interdependence and a mutual feeling of co-operation between all working people and their families right across the land. There is nothing that unites these people of Canada more than their frustration with the absolute lack of initiatives in the field of energy development on the part of the Liberal government.

Certainly, the people of my own riding of Peterborough and all those who live in the industrial heartland of Ontario, can see very clearly that what is good for the producing provinces is very good for the so-called consuming provinces. For they do not just "consume", they are not just ravenous non-producers wanting a free ride from Alberta; they work, they produce, they conserve, and ultimately they will help move this nation towards a fine and truly national balance of equalization.

The government might also care to ask an Ontario worker whether he would care to choose between losing his job

because of lost orders to his firm, or paying a few more cents at the gas pump on his way home from work? I know that the workers at one Dundas area company, for example, who made the bucket wheel reclaimers for the Syncrude plant, are all for Alberta's oil industry getting the green light on revenue infusion for capital investment. That is the only way to keep their orders coming. I am sure these workers would rather not sit at home and debate the merits of section 42. I am sure, too, that they would rather see geese over the end of their shotguns on well-deserved hunting weekends than watch them flap over their TV screens in slow motion.

In my own riding of Peterborough, that city's major industry, the Canadian General Electric plant, depends very heavily on our indigenous energy package. I spoke the other day to a representative of the CGE plant, which employs 4,800 people. He told me that "any expansion in any area where electricity is involved will benefit us". "Our whole market," he said, "is based on the expansion of industry, and the more developments and capital investment projects, the better it is from our point of view".

● (2030)

How is this electricity produced in Ontario? Some 45 per cent of Ontario's total energy requirement is based on oil. Canadian General Electric at Peterborough, for example, can produce pump motors, industrial controls, wire and cable for the resource exploration and development market. This is what is really meant by Ontarians being Canadian; a two-way railroad of goods, services and capital between the west and all parts of Canada. It is not the bird's-eye view gained from the Liberal dirigible gliding through the constitutional clouds.

I must impress upon the government and upon the people of Canada that holding up the development of the oil industry in Alberta or indeed in Newfoundland or anywhere in Canada where oil may be found, is holding up industrial development and economic security for the whole nation, and that is very clear. Second, how can we dispel the horrible misconception throughout the country, especially in central Canada, that the most important thing, the one paramount element in this whole mess, is the cost of a litre of gas for the family wagon or, in Mr. Trudeau's case, a tankful for the Mercedes?

The consumer is already paying a fair portion of the true price, the price that should be displayed on the pumps anyway, through the massive \$1.5 billion subsidy payments in 1980 alone, and this because of lack of honesty and sincerity. This amount has to be paid on oil imported from offshore to supply Canada east of Ottawa. As the Ottawa *Citizen* noted on September 29:

If the world price keeps rising and Canadian prices are kept artificially low, the cost of the federal oil subsidy, currently \$3.5 billion, will keep rising, so will the federal deficit.

Why not pay what we are paying anyway directly at the pumps, approach the world oil price, attract back expansion and exploration capital, achieve our goal of self-sufficiency in the 1990s, and at the same time protect our jobs and industries in central Canada? As the west and east expand so does