

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

tion. I suggest that, rather than being forced to accede to the requirements and demands of the NDP, this is an outcropping of the Prime Minister's essential political philosophy, the emergence of his true colours and a large step on the road the NDP want him to follow. Mr. Lynch quotes from the writings of the Prime Minister on the seeds of radicalism and the path of socialism. I do not know whether it took Mr. Lynch quite some time to realize just what was going on, but I think possibly what we have seen in the past few days is not essentially NDP policy but rather new Liberal policy, and really there is not too much difference between the two. I wonder, therefore, why the hon. member for York North (Mr. Danson) emphasized this point so much, because really there is not too much difference.

This bill would permit the government to override any provincial legislation and regulation. The national petroleum corporation he announced could take away from the provinces the only bargaining point they have with the federal government—their natural resources. This country, thanks to the work of that gentleman since he took over in 1968, is moving steadily toward a unitary state, and I do not think Canadians want this type of situation. I suggest that the provinces must be left with control over their natural resources, and must have complete autonomy within their fields of jurisdiction. The encroachment on their rights as proposed by the bill, unless amended, are completely unacceptable.

Let me refer to a speech on this subject made in the House by the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Lesard). Apparently he is one of the few Liberals in this House who does do some very careful thinking on the subject of provincial rights. He stated, as recorded at page 8533 of *Hansard*:

However the establishment of such an over-all Canadian energy policy compared to the former one which was partial should not be set up for the second time while ignoring the priority interests of the provinces and mainly of Quebec in this field.

That is perhaps too limiting, as I feel it should apply to all the provinces. Surely, my hon. friend would agree that if it applies to Quebec it should apply to Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, my own province of British Columbia and any of the other provinces I have not mentioned by name. Later the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean said, as reported at page 8534 of *Hansard*:

But I would like to sound a note of warning to all provinces: the federal government should not take advantage of the situation to assume a right which it does not need. This applies to Alberta as well as to the province of Quebec. I am pleased to find restrictions in the legislation before us, particularly the one year limit, because otherwise I would not accept it as a Quebecker. Some of my colleagues are in the same position. As members representing various areas of Canada we all are in the same position. Then we should not agree to place it under federal control unless there is a completely new understanding and distribution of powers and responsibilities between both government levels.

I wish the hon. member was able to get this point across to his leader, as it does not seem the government understands this particular principle.

In addition, this bill vests an appointed body with absolute authority in certain areas. What will happen to the already downgraded power of parliament and the circumvented and undermined role of the elected member of this

[Mr. Patterson.]

House? This government has already tried to strip the members of any real role in parliament.

**An hon. Member:** Explain.

**Mr. Patterson:** You ask me to explain; I will do just that. This situation has been compounded by using defeated government members as advisers, executive assistants and consultants rather than using the people's choice—the elected member.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Patterson:** This bill in its present form is a denial of the supremacy of parliament, the abdication in favour of bureaucracy and the surrender of its responsibility to a body with no accountability to the people of the nation, but solely to the government. So we have a nice, neat set-up and a real energy czar in our midst. The bill has far-reaching powers in overruling other jurisdictions and other departments. I could refer to a number of sections which give this body the authority to overrule decisions under the National Energy Board, the Combines Investigations Act, environmental legislation, the Canadian Transport Commission, the Canada Shipping Act, the National Transportation Act and I am not just sure what else. I would suggest that this is too much power without the board having some responsibility to this House.

**Mr. Béchard:** What about in cases of emergency?

**Mr. Patterson:** We have seen the use of powers in so-called emergency situations in the past, and I do not know that we want to see them used too often in the future.

This bill is far-reaching as well in its power to manipulate the economy. I know many of my colleagues and many government members would agree that control over energy at this time implies economic control. Thus the Prime Minister, disguised as the energy supplies allocation board, would have a free rein to manipulate the economy of Canada. The way this government has incompetently handled the economy in the last few years without a free rein, I wonder what we might expect in the future if this board is set up?

For instance, this bill allows allocations to be applied selectively. Let me just give an illustration of how this could be a most powerful weapon in achieving national economic policy ends. Were the government to desire the establishment of a synthetic textile industry in the Maritimes, and I use this as an illustration, it would be a simple matter to declare a shortage of certain petroleum by-products necessary to such a textile production, except in the Maritimes. So, we can see that whether the shortage was actual or declared would be a matter of opinion, and the possibilities of misuse are endless.

Certain domestic industries or commercial concerns depend upon petroleum products as part of the content of their manufactured output. Other industries rely on what is classifiable as an alternate fuel or fuel product as part of output. The supply of these materials required for production is regulated under the provisions of this bill which is currently before us. Complete control over the transportation system of the country is also provided, both through