

*Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

power. Just imagine, a shortage of electric power in Quebec because of the Israeli-Arab war. And to strengthen his SOS he suggests his famous restrictions everyone of them weirder than the other, such as turning the thermostat down to 70 instead of 72, as if he did not know that it cost as much to maintain a temperature at 70 or 72. Here is another restriction, closing doors very quickly so as not to let the cold come in, and leaving all windows closed to keep the heat in.

And during all that time oil companies like Golden Eagle Canada Limited are stating they doubled their exports to the United States in the last month of 1973, 2.5 million gallons in one month. One can read this in the newspaper *La Presse*, and I quote:

In spite of the crisis, Quebec exports oil. At a time when Quebec is threatened with a shortage of oil this winter with the intensification of the Arab embargo, a few Quebec refineries, including Golden Eagle Canada Limited of Saint-Romuald, continue to export huge quantities of industrial heating oil or bunker fuel to the United States.

From October 15 to November 26 last, Quebec ranked first among exporting provinces that ship refined products to the American market with exports of 2.5 million barrels, or the equivalent of 87.5 million gallons.

After Ottawa decreed export quotas of industrial oils on October 15 last, Quebec supplied, to October 31, almost half of all Canadian exports to the U.S.A.

In coming weeks, those exports of refined oil should decline however, not to better serve Quebec needs in bunker fuel low in sulphur content, but to supply British Columbia via the Panama Canal.

At least here, Mr. Speaker, we are staying inside Canada. The article goes on to say:

The federal government is indeed preparing to convince eastern Canada refiners to help British Columbia, where there will be a serious shortage of industrial oils this winter. During the next few weeks, the National Energy Board will have to issue a smaller number of exportation permits for the United States in order to divert the bunker towards the Pacific coast.

Mr. Speaker, when these absurdities are mentioned, the Liberals always protest: There is a surplus. But if we have a surplus, why pretend that there is a shortage?

This is again reminiscent of the artificial food shortage of the 1930's when food was burned so that prices might triple, even though the population was starving. The simple reason for this crisis was the will to cause a price increase and the reason for the crisis today is still a question of price increase.

It is fortunate that the Canadian public is better informed and that it did not respond to the minister's entreaty. That is why he had to return to reality and admit oil products were in abundance. He acknowledged also that it was not oil that would be lacking this winter but the proper means of transportation. How can one believe now that means of transportation will be lacking? I suggest that the joke has gone a little too far.

I heard an hon. member from Alberta state that if we had an adequate transportation and storage system, Alberta could produce oil 24 hours a day instead of 10 or 11 hours. Such a comment leaves the Canadian public absolutely nonplussed.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote from an article which appeared in *Montréal-Matin* as follows:

We have oil but we lack the means to move and store it.

[Mr. Gauthier (Roberval).]

Canada now has in storage 3 million barrels of crude oil and will receive 3 million more by the end of March but we do not know how to distribute it between the refineries in eastern Canada.

So there is no oil shortage: the only shortage we do have has to do with transportation and storage.

This is the essential of the statement made yesterday to the media by Energy, Mines and Resources Minister, Donald Macdonald.

The government keeps on saying that the shortage is the result of the Middle East conflict. I wonder what the Arab countries have to do with the matter of oil in Canada, since western provinces export about 50 per cent of their production and eastern Canada, including Quebec, has always imported most of its oil supplies from Venezuela and Rumania, where there is surely no war going on. As far as the war between Israel and the Arab countries is concerned, I wish I had a few minutes, or even half an hour more, to deal with it. I will simply say that after meeting with the diplomats involved, I realized that this crisis would be easily settled were it not for the foreign financial interests in Arabia that decided to double their export prices.

This is the main cause of this conflict that is ridiculous for the Arab people. From the political point of view, the Arab-Israeli war would quickly come to an end if the United Nations forced the Jewish people to return home and be satisfied with the territory that the Arabs were willing to give them. But there are still the interests of American millionaires and their stooges who enable them to obtain everything for almost nothing. Why does the present government not have the guts to tell the truth to the people, explaining to them that all wars are first and above all wars of financial interests. It is the same for the Arab countries war. The opportunity was given by owners of coal mines to start blockades and double prices by imposing restraints, and the governments played the game willy-nilly.

Today, the government is surprised by the opposition reaction. I am not. I believe that for the first time, the western provinces will really oppose the federal government to preserve their property. I understand them, but I am very pleased because this will make the Quebec people realize that the province of Quebec is not the only one that wants to be independent. It will prove at the same time to westerners what humiliation Quebec had to suffer because of Ottawa's infringements. I deplore only one thing in Quebec today: the lack of combativeness, not to mention the puerile resignation of its government in trusting the Big Brother in Ottawa. In this respect, I should like to quote an article from Clément Brown, a columnist for *Montréal-Matin*:

AN AMBIGUITY: THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY

The Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Gilles Massé, said in a statement the other day that although he intends to co-operate with Ottawa in the setting up of an emergency program to prevent oil shortages, Quebec will see to it that the federal government does not monopolize permanently powers that come normally under provincial jurisdiction.

Except under the rather vague terms of "Peace",—

● (1630)

Time does not permit me to read from another most interesting article which is a very good illustration of the simplistic attitude and submission of the province of