

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, instead of lecturing the Leader of the Opposition on energy policy, I might lecture him on the rules of the House. I thought he had risen on a point of order or something of the sort. On the other hand, as he asked a question I will try to answer it at the end of my remarks, if I may.

I was speaking of the current problem in the country, and in that connection I would sincerely hope—I say this by way of an answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question—that everything possible within our power will be done in this energy crisis to ensure that the Atlantic provinces' industry is not harmed. I see a limp handwave from the Leader of the Opposition on that comment, Mr. Speaker, and that about constitutes the total sum of Conservative policy in this area.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. I presume all hon. members know the rules. When an hon. member has the floor, he has the right to speak. The Chair is having a very hard time hearing the hon. member. I ask hon. members to observe the rules. The minister has the floor.

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, I was saying that the immediate but larger task is, surely, to move now to ensure that present uncertainties will not occur again. This government's policy is a firm commitment to that objective. The pipeline to eastern Canada will go ahead. To those who now say, with the benefit of hindsight—

**An hon. Member:** When?

**Mr. Jamieson:** The pipeline will go ahead, as has been indicated, immediately. To those who now say, with the benefit of hindsight—and some of those people are sitting not far from here—that the pipeline should have been started earlier, let me ask how practical such a move would have been a few months ago, in their eyes. How many, now eager to jump on this particular bandwagon, would have condemned the project out of hand less than one year ago? Let me also say this to those people who would have condemned it out of hand.

Let me refresh the very short memories of those who very recently in this House were scoring the government for not being tough enough when the United States would not let us sell as much oil to them as some members opposite wanted,—they asked questions on this day after day in the question period—perhaps even more important, as much oil as some of the major oil producers wanted. It is this memory, among others, Mr. Speaker, that dampens my sympathy for the oil companies and their highly articulate spokesmen. The fact is well known that I am by no means doctrinaire in my opposition to the so-called free enterprise system. On balance I have to say that it has served Canada well. But I am under no illusions that the system was not serving itself well at the same time, and this is what many of us tend to forget.

Big business, whether in oil or any other field, has two great weaknesses that emerge without fail whenever the status quo is being threatened. The first is to cry blue ruin

### *Energy*

at the slightest provocation, and the second is to forecast the immediate collapse of the economy if anyone tampers with the even tenor of their ways. Well, Mr. Speaker, the occasions are rare indeed when either eventuality has happened. If I have to make any generalization, it is that frequently the opposite is true. As for the blue ruin cry, it simply is not so, nor is it likely to be in a world starving for energy. If these multinational oil companies are prepared, as they are, to deal with some of the most unstable countries in the world, they will remain active in Canada with its much more stable system as long as there are energy sources here to be exploited and to which they have access.

**An hon. Member:** Who says the government is stable?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, this will be the case as long as it is profitable for them to do so. But this is more than an argument for the continued profitability of the companies: it is also a warning to us and to the Canadian people. These oil companies will not stay if it is in their best interests to go elsewhere. We had seen something of this shift of interest well before the present crisis emerged.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, a national petroleum company is not so much a threat to private enterprise as it is protection—an insurance policy—for the public interest. The decision to create such a company and to move decisively in a number of other important energy fields represents a total repudiation of the motion now before us. May I say this in passing. I little care who claims parentage for these particular measures. I say that they are measures which this government devised, of which it is proud and which in the great record of the Liberal Party in the years ahead, will stand as a watershed reflecting our decisiveness, and not the other way around.

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

**Mr. Jamieson:** Far from lacking a policy, this government has in recent weeks, announced plans that in their totality move Canada a sizeable distance along the road that I am sure the majority of Canadians want to travel, that is, toward the goal not merely of self-sufficiency in energy but of greater control over their national destiny.

**Mr. Pappas:** Good luck in the next election!

● (2040)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, when I heard the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion a few moments ago, I had to correct very quickly my impression that this government did not have any energy left; I see that it still has some left, even if only in talk, and in unconvincing talk at that.

Mr. Speaker, I was nevertheless stupefied to see the minister support a policy aimed at dividing the country and adding to regional disparities in Canada. In fact, this energy policy, in the present circumstances is unfortunately becoming a feat of strength of which the government should not be proud, a feat of strength aimed at obtaining jurisdictions which the constitution forbids the government to have except in a situation of false or real apprehended crisis . . .